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Measuring Up

Progress Report on the
Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

Annual Report
2011-2012

Alberta 

This is the report to Albertans on ***Budget 2011: Building a Better Alberta***

It is a permanent public record of the dollars spent and the results achieved by the Government of Alberta for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The Government of Alberta Annual Report consists of two parts:

- ***Measuring Up***, which reports on the progress that has been made towards achieving the government's goals.
- ***Consolidated Financial Statements***, which provide an overall accounting of the government's revenue and spending, and assets and liabilities. The *Consolidated Financial Statements* are published in a separate document.

Annual reports for each ministry have also been published, providing additional detailed information on performance and financial results.

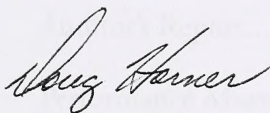


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	<i>Measuring Up</i>	<i>Consolidated Financial Statements</i>
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ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The *Measuring Up* component of the government's Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2012 was prepared under my direction on behalf of the government in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at June 15, 2012 with material economic or fiscal implications have been considered in the preparation of the Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doug Horner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Doug" and "Horner" being capitalized and prominent.

Doug Horner
President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Premier of Alberta.....	1
Management's Responsibility for Reporting	2
Readers' Guide	3
Working Together	3
Auditor's Report.....	4
Performance Measures by Goal	5
Results Analysis by Goal.....	10
Sources and Notes.....	57

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

Alberta is a unique place to live, with tremendous opportunities for individuals, families and businesses. Albertans' resourcefulness, optimism and confidence are at the core of our success. Our shared values, combined with knowledge and resources provide the foundation for government to plan and deliver the services Albertans desire.

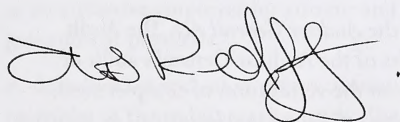
Albertans have the chance each year to see how the government is doing by looking at the results in *Measuring Up*. It compares performance measure results to specific targets, showcasing achievements and areas where we can do better.

The initiatives highlighted in *Measuring Up* under each of the government's five goals collectively tell a story that we can be proud of as Albertans. It is the story of a province that puts its people first, whether in health care, education or support for the vulnerable. It is a story of a province that is committed to responsible energy development and a clean and healthy environment.

We are a province that thrives on innovation, a skilled workforce, and an economy that continues to diversify and build networks nationally and internationally, while maintaining local advantages for business and industry. This work, along with investments in key infrastructure, will position Alberta to continue its success.

Most importantly, we are a province that steps up and takes action in times of need. This was especially true with the human effort and resources that went into the response to the wildfire in the Slave Lake region and recovery that followed. I am especially proud of the spirit and resilience of the people who endured this tragedy, the professionalism and compassion of those who came to their rescue and fought the fires, and the hundreds of Albertans who took people in and provided encouragement and charitable support.

The Government of Alberta will continue to build on past achievements and measure our success, while finding ways to improve and do things differently. We will do this by continuing to listen to Albertans and talking about what matters. We will focus on the right priorities, move forward and continue to do great things.



Alison Redford
Premier of Alberta

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the non-financial performance results reported in the province's annual performance report *Measuring Up*, a component of the Province of Alberta Annual Report, rests with the government. *Measuring Up* is prepared by the Controller under the general direction of the Deputy Minister of Treasury Board and Enterprise as authorized by the President of the Treasury Board and Enterprise pursuant to Section 10 of the *Government Accountability Act*.

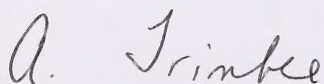
Under Section 10, the government must prepare and make public on or before June 30 of each year a consolidated annual report for the Province of Alberta for the fiscal year ended on the preceding March 31. The annual report must include a comparison of the actual performance results to the targets included in the government business plan and an explanation of any significant variances. As required by the *Government Accountability Act*, *Measuring Up* is published with the consolidated annual report of the Government of Alberta that forms part of the Public Accounts.

In order to meet government reporting requirements, the Controller obtains performance results relating to each ministry as necessary. Deputy heads in each ministry are responsible for maintaining management and internal control systems to ensure that the information provided by their ministry for presentation in *Measuring Up* is prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- ♦ Reliability - information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- ♦ Understandability - the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- ♦ Comparability - the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- ♦ Completeness - goals, performance measures and related targets match those included in Budget 2011.

Measuring Up is reviewed by the Audit Committee, which is established under the *Auditor General Act*. The Audit Committee advises the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the scope and results of the Auditor General's audit of *Measuring Up*. The Auditor General of Alberta provides an independent report on the verification of completeness, reliability, comparability and understandability of 12 of 30 performance measures published in *Measuring Up*, which are prepared by the government. The 12 audited performance measures are identified in *Measuring Up* with (audited). Annually, *Measuring Up* is tabled in the Legislature as a part of the Public Accounts and is referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of the Legislative Assembly.

Performance measures for each goal were selected for audit based on a combination of characteristics including: best represented the goal and mandated initiatives; had well established methodology and reporting of data; and had outcomes over which the government had a greater degree of influence.



Annette Trimbee
Deputy Minister of Treasury Board and Finance
June 20, 2012

READERS' GUIDE

Measuring Up is part of the Alberta government's commitment to be open and accountable to the people of Alberta. It endeavours to go beyond the reporting of financial information by answering the questions: what did the government achieve with the dollars spent; did the government do what it said it was going to do; and did the government make progress toward achieving its goals?

Answering these questions is accomplished by comparing the results of performance measures to targets and reporting on progress made on strategies identified in the five goals of the *2011-14 Government of Alberta Strategic Plan*.

Measuring Up includes detailed results analysis by goal, a performance measures section which includes the Auditor's Report, a one page performance report table for each goal and sources and notes.

In addition to the information presented in *Measuring Up*, a detailed performance measures methodology can be found in Supplementary Information Measuring Up – unaudited at www.alberta.ca.

WORKING TOGETHER

The Alberta Public Service works innovatively, efficiently and effectively to achieve the five goals as well as supporting the ten core businesses to ensure the best possible outcomes for Albertans. The Alberta Public Service Workforce Plan ensures that government has a skilled workforce with the capacity to meet changing business needs and to continue to provide high quality programs and services. In 2011-12, the government worked together to support employee growth and development, provide a quality work environment for employees and position the Government of Alberta as an attractive employer for current and potential employees to ensure a strong public service that can deliver on government priorities.

A shared vision and set of values continues to guide the work of the public service and provide a foundation for how members of the public service work. These common values are a foundation for how members of the public service work with each other, with public and private sector partners, and with Albertans.

Further information on work undertaken in 2011-12 to ensure the Government of Alberta has skilled employees to meet current and future needs is available in the final report on the Alberta Public Service Workforce Plan available on the Corporate Human Resources website www.chr.alberta.ca.

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the performance measures identified as “audited” in the “Performance Measures by Goal” section on pages 5 - 9 of the Government of Alberta’s *Measuring Up Annual Report 2011-12*. The audited performance measures are the responsibility of the Government of Alberta and are prepared on its behalf by the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance’s management in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliability – information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with underlying source data for the current and prior years’ results.
- Understandability – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparability – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years’ results.
- Completeness – goals, performance measures and related targets match those included in Budget 2011.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the reliability, understandability, comparability and completeness of these performance measures based on my audit. My audit was not designed to assess the relevance and sufficiency of the audited performance measures in demonstrating Government of Alberta progress towards the related goals.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the audited performance measures are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting these performance measures. An audit also includes assessing the principles used and the significant judgments made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the audited performance measures.

In my opinion, the audited performance measures in the “Performance Measures by Goal” section of the Government of Alberta’s *Measuring Up Annual Report 2011-2012* present fairly, in all material respects, results in accordance with the criteria of reliability, understandability, comparability, and completeness as described above.

Merwan N. Saher, FCA

Auditor General

June 20, 2012

Edmonton, Alberta

PERFORMANCE MEASURES BY GOAL

Goal 1 – Resourceful. Responsible – Ensure Alberta’s energy resources are developed in an environmentally sustainable way.

Goal One Performance Measures (audited)	Targets 2011-12	Previous Results	Current Results	Trend → 3 - 5 Years (unaudited)
River Water Quality Index (see note 1) Water quality of six major Alberta rivers at key sites, based on data on four groups of variables (metals, bacteria, nutrients and pesticides), which are averaged to provide an overall water quality rating.	Six out of six river systems have good to excellent water quality	Five out of six river systems have good to excellent water quality (2009-10)	Five out of six river systems have good to excellent water quality (2010-11)	
Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills (see note 2) Municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills as measured in kilograms of waste per capita.	700 kg	738 kg (2010)	738 kg (2011)	

Goal One Performance Measures (unaudited)

Air Quality Index (see note 3) Quality of Alberta’s air based on five major pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, and fine particulate matter.	*	Good air quality days 93% of the time (2010)	Good air quality days 95% of the time (2011)	No trend
Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (see note 4) Success in meeting the greenhouse gas emissions growth targets measured in million tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent as outlined in <i>Alberta’s 2008 Climate Change Strategy</i> .	246	234 (2009)	233 (2010)	

* The methodology has been enhanced and therefore results are no longer comparable to the target.

Notes:

Calendar years are presented, for example, as 2011; fiscal years are presented, for example, as 2011-12.

The numbered note references in the tables refer to the Sources and Notes section on pages 57 to 63 which summarizes the methodologies and data sources for each of the performance measures.

For full methodology, refer to Supplementary Information Measuring Up – unaudited, online at www.alberta.ca.

Goal 2 – A Healthy Approach – Increase access to quality health care and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care service delivery.

Goal Two Performance Measures (audited)	Targets 2011-12	Previous Results	Current Results	Trend → 3 - 5 Years (unaudited)
Ease of Access to Services (see note 5)				
Rating as easy or very easy:				
Physician Services	83%	77%	80%	
Emergency Department Services	65%	59% (2010-11)r	52% (2011-12)r	
Public Rating of Health System Overall (see note 6)				
Rating as excellent or good.	73%	64% (2010-11)r	63% (2011-12)r	

Goal Two Performance Measures (unaudited)

Satisfaction with Health Care Services Received (see note 7)				
Percentage of Albertans satisfied or very satisfied with health care services personally received in Alberta within the past year.	65%	67% (2010-11)	62% (2011-12)	
Continuing Care (see note 8)				
Number of persons waiting in an acute care hospital bed for continuing care.	375	471 (2010-11)	467 (2011-12)	
Number of persons waiting in the community for continuing care.	900	1,110 (2010-11)	1,002 (2011-12)	
Quality of accommodation services in supportive living and long-term care facilities, as indicated by the percentage of facilities reviewed that meet provincial standards:				
Group Homes	90%	82%	87%	No trend
Assisted Living	95%	86%	89%	
Lodges	98%	82%	94%	
Long-term Care	80%	70% (2010-11)	75% (2011-12)	

r – revised. Current and historical results are based on fiscal year, not calendar year. Previous Measuring Up reports stated these results by calendar year.

Notes:

Calendar years are presented, for example, as 2011; fiscal years are presented, for example, as 2011-12.

*Current and historical results are now based on fiscal year data, not calendar year data. Previous Measuring Up reports stated these results as calendar year results.

The numbered note references in the tables refer to the Sources and Notes section on pages 57 to 63 which summarizes the methodologies and data sources for each of the performance measures.

For full methodology, refer to Supplementary Information Measuring Up – unaudited, online at www.alberta.ca.

Goal 3 – Strong Communities – Promote strong and vibrant communities and reduce crime so Albertans feel safe.

Goal Three Performance Measures (audited)	Targets 2011-12	Previous Results	Current Results	Trend → 3 - 5 Years (unaudited)
Public Perception of Safety in the Neighbourhood (see note 9)				
Percentage of Albertans who feel reasonably safe to very safe walking alone in their area after dark.	82%	82% (2010-11)	82% (2011-12)	
Participation in the Arts (see note 10)				
Percentage of adult Albertans who participated in arts activities or events.	91.0%	89.5% (2010-11)	86.0% (2011-12)	
Affordable Housing Units (see note 11)				
Number of affordable housing units approved for development.	667	2,005r (2010-11)	1,212 (2011-12)	
Albertans' Satisfaction with their Local Governments (see note 12)				
Percentage somewhat satisfied to very satisfied.	80%	72% (2010-11)	77% (2011-12)	
Goal Three Performance Measures (unaudited)				
Support for Albertans with Developmental Disabilities (see note 13)				
Satisfaction of families/guardians of adults with developmental disabilities with Persons with Developmental Disabilities-funded services.	n/a*	85.3% (2010-11)	n/a*	
Social and Emotional Development (see note 14)				
Percentage of Alberta children demonstrating:				
Healthy social development	Maintain or improve	Alberta 84.5% Canada 82.6% (2008-09)	**	
Healthy emotional development	Alberta's result relative to the national average	Alberta 83.2% Canada 83.8% (2008-09)	**	
Violent Crime Rate (see note 15)				
Rate of violent crime per 100,000 population.	1 per cent annual decrease	-2% 1,513 (2009)	-3% 1,476 (2010)	
Property Crime Rate (see note 16)				
Rate of property crime per 100,000 population.	3 per cent annual decrease	-7% 5,336 (2009)	-8% 4,908 (2010)	
Volunteerism (see note 17)				
Percentage of adult Albertans who volunteered in their community.	83.0%	72.3% (2010-11)	80.4% (2011-12)	
Support for Albertans with Low Incomes Who Need Temporary Help (see note 18)				
Percentage of participants employed after leaving income support.	70%	63% (2010-11)	64% 2011-12	

r – revised

* not applicable (biennial survey)

** The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth was discontinued in 2010. The last results are for 2008-09.

Notes:

Calendar years are presented, for example, as 2011; fiscal years are presented, for example, as 2011-12.

The numbered note references in the tables refer to the Sources and Notes section on pages 57 to 63 which summarizes the methodologies and data sources for each of the performance measures.

For full methodology, refer to Supplementary Information Measuring Up – unaudited, online at www.alberta.ca.

Goal 4 – Creating Opportunity – Enhance value-added activity, increase innovation, and build a skilled workforce to improve the long-run sustainability of Alberta's economy.

Goal Four Performance Measures (audited)	Targets 2011-12	Previous Results	Current Results	Trend → 3 - 5 Years (unaudited)
Labour Force Participation Rate (see note 19) Inter-provincial rank of the percentage of working age Albertans employed or actively looking for work.	Highest	Highest 72.9% (2010)	Highest 73.7% (2011)	
Aboriginal Employment (off reserve) (see note 20) Percentage point difference between the unemployment rate of Aboriginal people living off reserve and other Albertans.	7.0 percentage points or less	7.6 percentage points (2010)	5.8 percentage points (2011)	
Post-secondary Education Attainment Rate (see note 21) Percentage of Albertans age 25-64 who have completed post-secondary education.	62%	62% (2010-11)	61% (2011-12)	
Goal Four Performance Measures (unaudited)				
Labour Productivity (see note 22) Inter-provincial rank of real GDP in dollars per hour worked.	Highest	Highest	Highest	
Per cent growth (3-year moving average) in GDP per hour worked:				
Business Services	2.9%	1.9% (2010)	1.5% (2011)	
Manufacturing	0.5%	-0.4% (2010)	1.4% (2011)	
Manufacturing and Service Industry Investment (see note 23) The value of Alberta's capital investment by the manufacturing and services sector in current dollars (annual percentage change).	\$10.5 billion +3%	\$11.1 billion -19.6% (2009)	\$10.2 billion -8.0% (2010)	
Manufacturing and Service Exports (see note 24) The value of Alberta's international exports of manufactured goods and services in current dollars (annual percentage change).	\$28.9 billion +4%	\$29.5 billion +13.2% (2010)	\$31.8 billion +7.9% (2011)*	
Business Expenditures on Research and Development (see note 25) Alberta business expenditures on research and development.	\$1,220 million	\$1,539 million (2008)	\$1,449 million (2009)	
High School Completion Rate (see note 26) High school completion rate of students within five years of entering grade 10.	80.5%	79.0% (2009-10)	79.6% (2010-11)	

* Estimate. Services data is not available for 2011.

Notes:

Calendar years are presented, for example, as 2011; fiscal years are presented, for example, as 2011-12.

The numbered note references in the tables refer to the Sources and Notes section on pages 57 to 63 which summarizes the methodologies and data sources for each of the performance measures.

For full methodology, refer to Supplementary Information Measuring Up – unaudited, online at www.alberta.ca.

Goal 5 – Building Tomorrow – Provide the roads, schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing economy and population.

Goal Five Performance Measures (audited)	Targets 2011-12	Previous Results	Current Results	Trend → 3 - 5 Years (unaudited)
Physical Condition of Provincial Highways (see note 27)				
Good	56.0%	58.4%	58.6%	
Fair	27.5%	26.7%	26.8%	
Poor	16.5%	14.9%	14.6%	
		(2010-11)	(2011-12)	

Goal Five Performance Measures (unaudited)

Physical Condition of Learning Facilities (see note 28)

School Facilities:

Good	*	n/a	61%	No trend
Fair		n/a	37%	
Poor		n/a	2%	
		(2010-11)	(2011-12)	

Post-secondary Facilities:

Good	*	n/a	72%	No trend
Fair		n/a	23%	
Poor		n/a	5%	
		(2010-11)	(2011-12)	

Physical Condition of Government-owned and Operated Facilities (see note 29)

Good	*	n/a	73%	No trend
Fair		n/a	26%	
Poor		n/a	1%	
		(2010-11)	(2011-12)	

Physical Condition of Health Facilities (see note 30)

Good	*	n/a	77%	No trend
Fair		n/a	20%	
Poor		n/a	3%	
		(2010-11)	(2011-12)	

* The results for 2011-12 are not comparable against targets set under the previous methodology. Due to improvements made to the methodology that resulted in greater consistency in calculating the Facility Condition Index across learning, government-owned and health facilities, current results are not comparable to previous years' results.

Notes:

Calendar years are presented, for example, as 2011; fiscal years are presented, for example, as 2011-12.

The numbered note references in the tables refer to the Sources and Notes section on pages 57 to 63 which summarizes the methodologies and data sources for each of the performance measures.

For full methodology, refer to Supplementary Information Measuring Up – unaudited, online at www.alberta.ca.

RESULTS ANALYSIS BY GOAL

GOAL ONE

1

Resourceful. Responsible – Ensure Alberta's energy resources are developed in an environmentally sustainable way.

Managing and Protecting the Environment

Land-use Framework

Albertans, communities, governments and industry are coming together to develop shared outcomes and to plan activities to achieve social, economic and environmental goals. The central tool for this shared planning is the *Land-use Framework*, seven regional plans that set outcomes and objectives for each region in the province. Each plan begins with preliminary work, such as modeling and state-of-the-environment reports. Preliminary work and modeling has been completed on plans one and two – the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan and the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. During 2011-12, government undertook preliminary work on the third regional plan, the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

To involve Albertans on the topic of property rights, in December 2011 and January 2012, a number of stakeholder meetings and open houses were held. More than 1,400 Albertans participated in the Property Rights Task Force consultations, the results of which are available on the government website. This consultation resulted in the Government of Alberta committing to: consistent, predictable and timely consultation; examination of the requirements to reclaim and remediate land, as well as removal of unused infrastructure; review of the legislation, regulation guidelines or principles related to compensation and property rights; and the creation of a property rights advocate. As government makes future development decisions, it must be certain that Albertans will have a strengthened sense that their property rights are respected.

Regional Advisory Councils

For each regional plan, the Government of Alberta appoints a Regional Advisory Council which is made up of Albertans with municipal, business, environmental, Aboriginal and other interests and

backgrounds. The council proposes a vision and makes recommendations as a basis for public, shared conversations on a 10-year strategic direction for economic, environmental and social outcomes and objectives. In developing the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan, government engaged approximately 10,000 Albertans over two years, including stakeholders, the general public, Aboriginal people and municipal governments. In April 2011, government released the draft plan and held additional public consultation. In August, it released an updated draft plan.

Government released the recommendations from the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) Regional Advisory Council in March 2011. In May 2011, government released the SSRP public consultation workbook on the council's advice. Stakeholders had until April 30, 2012, to complete the workbook and provide input into the regional plan.

Management Frameworks

Regional plans contain other tools which support decision-making and future planning. These include management frameworks which describe outcomes for air and surface and ground water for specific areas within regions. Management frameworks are a new approach to managing cumulative effects at a regional level. They describe outcomes, limits and thresholds for air and water within a specific area within a region and provide direction on scientific work, modeling tools and managing growth pressures. The province is implementing three management frameworks in the lower Athabasca region: air quality, groundwater and surface water quality for the lower Athabasca River, and updating the surface water quantity management framework.

Also in the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan, a biodiversity management framework and integrated watershed-based landscape plan are being developed, which will provide clear management direction to better address all aspects of public land use on a

Resourceful. Responsible – Ensure Alberta's energy resources are developed in an environmentally sustainable way.

complex landscape. The approach seeks to maintain the full range of services provided by healthy functional ecosystems, while supporting Aboriginal, community, industry, recreational, and other needs.

In 2011, a comprehensive air quality management framework and implementation platform were created for the Capital Region by stakeholders and government. Approximately 25 forums were held during this process. The framework complements the water management framework completed in 2007 and implementation is underway.

The government is drafting a surface water quality management framework for the Bow, Milk, Oldman and South Saskatchewan rivers in the South Saskatchewan region to protect and maintain water quality and support the *Water for Life* goals.

Land Use

The Public Lands Administration Regulation that came into force in September 2011, focuses on three key themes: land management, compliance and enforcement, and appeals and dispute resolution. The regulation provides updated tools and streamlined approval processes to better manage growing demands on the public land base, balance resource development with recreational use and access by Aboriginals, and meet positive environmental performance through defined conservation and stewardship outcomes.

Monitoring Alberta's Biodiversity

The Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) supports regional planning under the *Land-use Framework* and other planning and decision-making by providing baseline conditions, indicators and coefficients for scenario modeling for regional planning efforts and biodiversity trend information, once plans are in place.

A status report on biodiversity in the South Saskatchewan Planning Region was released by the ABMI in late August 2011 to support planned stakeholder consultations prior to plan development. The ABMI uses a tool called the Intactness Index to report on the ecological health of Alberta. The index

ranges from 100 per cent intact to zero per cent intact, for example, an area with little evidence of human impact is 100 per cent intact; a downtown parking lot surrounded by big-box stores is zero per cent intact. ABMI reported that among 85 species of native birds, vascular plants and soil mites the average intactness was 54 per cent.

Sustainable Wildlife

In June 2011, A Woodland Caribou Policy for Alberta was released which reaffirms the Government of Alberta's commitment to threatened species. The policy highlights the need for a shared government, public and private sector conservation approach to ensure the long-term presence of naturally thriving woodland caribou populations in Alberta.

Water for Life

Under the *Water for Life* strategy, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance was designated as the official Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Peace/Slave river basin. Now all major watersheds in Alberta have a WPAC.

Government re-launched the *Water for Life* website in May 2011, with a new design focusing on the Water for Life Action Plan. The website highlights new and relevant information related to projects and actions under the action plan www.waterforlife.alberta.ca.

The Water for Life Progress Report was released in January 2012. The report covers the period from December 2008 to March 2011 and highlights a selection of the activities, programs and tools being pursued under the *Water for Life* strategy.

Innovative Solutions

Oil Sands Strategic Plan

Responsible Actions, Alberta's 20-year strategic plan to address environmental, social and economic issues and opportunities in the oil sands regions is progressing on target. Approximately 40 per cent of the plan's objectives will be completed by December 2012, 95 per cent by 2020 and 100 per cent by 2030.

Resourceful. Responsible – Ensure Alberta's energy resources are developed in an environmentally sustainable way.

More than 50 projects are in progress to support the environment and Albertans' quality of life.

Oil Sands Information Portal

The province launched the Oil Sands Information Portal www.osip.alberta.ca in November 2011, a comprehensive online resource where the public can find detailed information on the environmental performance of Alberta's oil sands activities. The portal includes data on water use, greenhouse gas emissions and land disturbance and reclamation as well as an interactive map for key information on oil sands projects in near real-time or as reported, and a data library for detailed reports and data downloads.

As part of its on-going commitment to open data, the province is currently expanding the portal to include groundwater datasets, the Alberta Water Well Information Database, the Baseline Water Well Testing data, the Observation Well Network data and water quality data.

Tailings Management Framework for Oil Sands

Work is underway to establish a draft Tailings Management Framework for the mineable oil sands. The framework will provide guidance on managing tailings to provide assurance that fluid fine tailings will be reclaimed in a timely manner and that current tailings will be reduced.

Energy Efficiency

In April 2009, a three year, \$49.94 million energy efficiency incentive program was launched. The program was aimed at improving the energy efficiency of the residential sector; the program focused on such items as high efficiency furnaces, front-loading clothes washers, home insulation, high efficiency hot water systems, home energy audits, and new homes that achieved high energy efficiency ratings.

Since the launch of the program, more than 169,000 rebates have been issued to Albertans who have invested in energy efficient upgrades. These purchases will help to prevent more than 1.6 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere over the 20 year life of the program.

Between 2010 and 2011, incentive programs targeted at commercial transportation and commercial lighting sectors were launched. Light It Right, a four million dollar lighting incentive program, offered commercial businesses lighting assessments and incentives for installing energy efficient lighting. Trucks of Tomorrow, a two million dollar program, offered incentives for commercial fleet operators to install energy efficient items, such as aerodynamic aids, auxiliary power units and anti-idling devices in their vehicles.

Government is developing an Energy Efficiency Policy Framework and Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The framework and action plan for energy efficiency are expected to be completed by the end of 2012 and pending approval, implementation will begin in 2013.

Alberta participated in the Federal/provincial/territorial Steering Committee on Energy Efficiency, implementing priority energy efficiency actions approved at the Energy and Mines Ministers Conference 2011. The committee works collaboratively to increase the contribution of energy efficiency within each jurisdiction through the sharing of information, resources and program design.

Hybrid Taxis

A consumer rebate grant agreement with Climate Change Central encouraged the uptake of hybrid taxis in 2011-12. Climate Change Central processed applications for 24 hybrid taxis which are expected to result in two and a half kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and one million litres of gasoline saved over the lifetime of the taxis.

Alberta's Greenhouse Gas Program

In 2011, 106 facilities were captured under the Alberta Specified Gas Emitters Regulation. This regulation applies to facilities that emit 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or more per year. Emissions from these facilities under a regulation target totalled 108.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Total emissions from these facilities account for about half of Alberta's total provincial emissions, and about

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70 per cent of total industrial emissions. Regulated facilities decreased emissions by 3.6 million tonnes from baseline levels. Of this amount, 2.5 million tonnes were reduced due to the use of co-generation, which is a more efficient way of generating heat and power. The rest was achieved through other efficiency and emissions abatement actions.

An additional compliance obligation of 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent was met using other compliance options. Carbon offset credits (reduction from non-regulated facilities, quantified using government approved protocols), for example, accounted for 5.3 million tonnes and Emissions Performance Credit Retirement (credits from regulated facilities exceeding their reduction) accounted for one million tonnes.

Based on the 2011 result under the program, approximately 32.3 million tonnes of greenhouse gases have been prevented from going into the atmosphere since 2007 (compared to business-as-usual levels).

Every year, the province enters into a grant agreement with the Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation and transfers money from the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund to the Climate Change and Emissions Corporation. As of March 2012, payment into the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund was 3.7 million tonnes (at a rate of \$15 per tonne) totalling \$55.4 million, which will be invested in climate change related projects in 2012.

Upstream Oil and Gas Processing

The province continued to lead a government-industry committee identifying fuel gas efficiencies in upstream oil and gas processing. Fuel gas usage in Alberta is significant at about one billion cubic feet per day, equivalent to the consumption of about three million homes. In 2011-12 the Energy Resources Conservation Board undertook a survey of fuel gas users, and received responses from companies representing 72 per cent of fuel gas use in Alberta. The survey results were published in the *Alberta Fuel Gas Efficiency in the Upstream Gas and Conventional Oil*

Industry Report released in March 2012. The report provides trends on fuel gas usage and a summary of the successes and challenges in reducing fuel gas use.

Streamlining Upstream Oil and Gas Approvals

The Enhanced Approval Process (EAP) continues to provide a transparent and efficient application system for issuing surface land dispositions for oil and gas development under authority of the *Public Lands Act*. The EAP helps ensure land and natural resource sensitivities are considered while also enabling energy related land-use activities. Dispositions within scope of the EAP are targeted for issuance in five business days when the applicant has satisfied standard submission requirements. In the past year, over 4,990 dispositions were approved; 97 per cent of standard applications in eight days or less and 89 per cent within five days.

Oil and Gas Development Enquiries

The Energy Resources Conservation Board launched an enhanced, toll-free Customer Contact Centre information line to act as a single point of contact for all of Alberta's oil and gas related inquiries. These enhancements came out of the government's Regulatory Alignment Project. The call-centre professionals are trained to assist callers on a variety of matters pertaining to oil and gas development in Alberta.

Conservation of Alberta's Oil and Gas Resources

The Energy Resources Conservation Board has issued Bulletin 2011-29, which advises of regulation amendments to change its well-spacing framework for conventional and unconventional oil and gas reservoirs. The changes promote enhanced conservation of Alberta's oil and gas resources.

Regulatory Enhancement Project

In March 2010, the report *Energizing Investment: A Framework to Improve Alberta's Natural Gas and Conventional Oil Competitiveness* set out a series of actions to improve Alberta's regulatory system for energy resource development. Energizing Investment also created a Regulatory Enhancement Task Force to

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oversee the actions and provide recommendations for improving the regulatory system. In June 2010, the task force completed its report, and shortly after, in January 2011, the Government of Alberta accepted the recommendations. Of the six recommendations, two became priorities. The first was to establish a new policy management office to ensure the integration of natural resource policies and provide an interface between policy development and policy assurance. During 2011-12, government established the Policy Management Office and developed the new regulatory body and accompanying legislation. The second was to establish a single regulatory body with responsibility for all regulatory functions associated with upstream oil and gas, oil sands and coal. The new body will issue authorizations, approvals and licences for these energy activities. It will also be responsible for all compliance associated with the approvals. It will integrate all regulatory activities and ensure consistencies of government policy.

Air Quality Management System for Canada

During 2011-12, Alberta played a lead role working with the federal/provincial/territorial governments and stakeholders to develop a new national Air Quality Management System for Canada. This system focuses on air quality and addresses all sources of pollution. It features collaboration among governments, transparent monitoring and reporting and strong stakeholder involvement. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment will review and give final approval to the system this year.

Air Quality Health Index

The province collaborated with Environment Canada and Health Canada to develop the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), which was launched in Alberta in July 2011. This new system, as before, assigns a number value to air quality, but now also includes health messaging for the general public and at-risk populations regarding exposure to outdoor air. The Weather Network, the Environment and Water and Environment Canada websites report the AQHI hourly. The AQHI is intended to be only used as a

tool to communicate air quality to the public. It is not intended to be used as a performance measure for air quality. Alberta's former Air Quality Index is based on Alberta's Ambient Air Quality Objectives and will continue to be used as Alberta's performance measure for air quality.

Carbon Capture and Storage

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is the primary method that Alberta is using to meet its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and is a key pillar of Alberta's *2008 Climate Change Strategy* and *Provincial Energy Strategy*. In 2011-12, the province passed the *Carbon Sequestration Tenure Regulation*, which allows operators to obtain leases for large-scale storage and specifies what criteria must be included in a monitoring, measurement and verification plan. Throughout 2011-12 the province has been assessing the regulatory requirements that apply to CCS to determine their adequacy and recommending enhancements to the regulatory system. This undertaking involves over one hundred national and international stakeholders and will ensure that CCS is conducted in a safe and responsible manner in Alberta. The assessment is expected to be complete by the end of 2012.

In April 2011, the Government of Alberta and Swan Hills Synfuels signed a final funding agreement for a carbon capture and storage project which will tap into a deep, un-mineable coalbed near Swan Hills and turn the coal into a synthetic gas or syngas while underground. The syngas can then be used to generate electricity or be used as a feedstock for other petrochemical industries. Carbon dioxide that is captured during extraction of the syngas can be sequestered or used for enhanced oil recovery. This agreement is part of the provincial government's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through clean energy and CCS technologies. Two other funded projects, Shell Quest and Alberta Carbon Trunk Line, achieved planned milestones in 2011-12 and their owner companies applied for first payments from the CCS funding program.

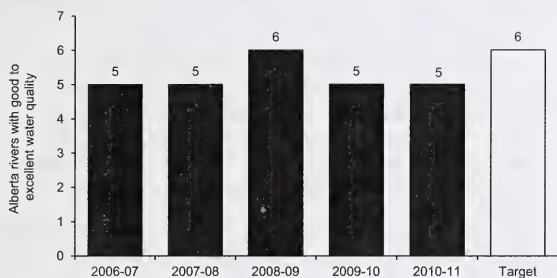
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

River Water Quality Index (see note 1)

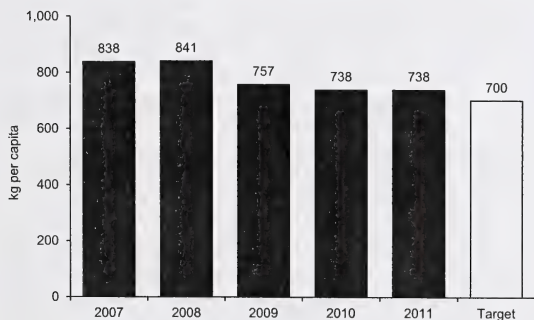
Water quality of six major Alberta rivers at key sites, based on data on four groups of variables (metals, bacteria, nutrients and pesticides), which are averaged to provide an overall water quality rating.



- In 2010-11, five of six river systems assessed as part of the Alberta River Water Quality Index demonstrated good to excellent water quality. This is slightly below the target.
- A significant rainfall event in July of 2010 likely contributed non-point source runoff to the Red Deer River. This led to an increase in the number and magnitude of water quality guideline exceedances at that time and resulted in lower River Water Quality Index rating at the downstream monitoring station.
- Alberta River Water Quality Index examines a very broad range of water quality parameters, many of which tend to fluctuate over time. Hence, a small level of inter-annual variability in index ratings is expected and typically observed.

Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills (see note 2)

Municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills as measured in kilograms of waste per capita.



- Municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills remained constant at 738 kilograms per capita in 2011.
- A number of factors can influence this measure including government or private sector waste reduction initiatives and the overall state of Alberta's economy.
- Aggressive and innovative approaches will be necessary in the coming years to reduce disposal. Diversion policies and programs for construction and demolition waste, packaging and printed materials, organic materials, and other key waste streams will be required in order to reach the waste disposal target.

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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Air Quality Index (see note 3)

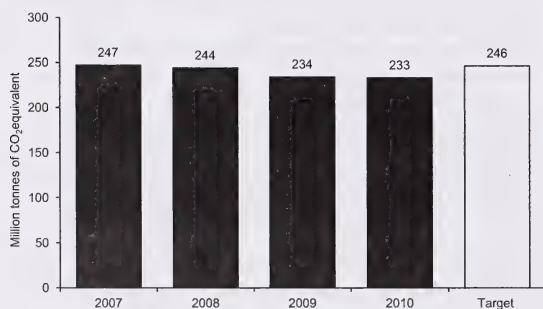
Quality of Alberta's air based on five major pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, and fine particulate matter.

Air Quality	
Year	Good Days
2011	95%
2010	93%

- In 2011, Alberta had good air quality days occurring 95 per cent of the time, which is a two per cent increase from 2010.
- The results reflect less frequent wintertime smog and forest fire activity than 2010. The results also reflect the new monitoring technology implemented at air monitoring stations across Alberta which better accounts for total fine particulate matter concentration. The initiative is part of the improvements being made to the National Air Pollution Surveillance Network across Canada.
- The methodology for this measure has been enhanced and therefore results are no longer comparable to the target or historical results prior to 2010.

Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (see note 4)

Success in meeting the greenhouse gas emissions growth targets measured in million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent as outlined in *Alberta's 2008 Climate Change Strategy*.



- The results for 2010 reflect improvement over the target.
- This is largely due to the economic slowdown experienced across many industrial sectors in the province.
- Key factors contributing to the more recent decrease in emissions include a slowdown in conventional oil and gas activity.
- The growth targets take into consideration the impact of the *Climate Change Strategy* and are lower than what was forecasted to occur in the absence of the strategy.

Putting People First

5-year Health Action Plan

Three pilot family care clinics were developed and are operational in Edmonton, Calgary and Slave Lake in April 2012. The family care clinics are an innovative way to provide accessible, comprehensive primary health care services from the most appropriate health provider(s) in a timely manner.

A new Primary Care Network (PCN), the Wainwright PCN, was launched in April 2011. As of April 2012 there were 40 PCNs operating in the province, which included more than 2,500 family physicians providing primary health care to over 2.8 million Albertans.

Residency capacity in the Departments of Family Medicine at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary were increased in order to train additional family physicians. In March 2012, the University of Alberta allocated 41 per cent of its entry-level residency positions to family medicine (thus maintaining the 41 per cent allocation from March 2011), and the University of Calgary allocated 40 per cent of its entry-level positions to family medicine, an increase from 36 per cent in March 2011. Both universities continue to work towards allocating 45 per cent of entry-level postgraduate residency training positions to family medicine programs.

Addictions and Mental Health Strategy

Creating Connections: Alberta's Addiction and Mental Health Strategy was released in September 2011. The strategy sets the direction for addiction and mental health services in Alberta for the next five years and aims to reduce the prevalence of addiction, mental health problems and mental illness in Alberta through health promotion and prevention activities and the provision of quality assessment, treatment and supportive services when needed.

Continuing Care Strategy

Government has worked to reduce continuing care wait times through the implementation of the Continuing Care Strategy and expanding home care options and community capacity for supportive living.

In 2011-12, the province, through Alberta Health Services, provided continuing care services using innovative service delivery models. This includes standardizing home care and supportive living services, enhancing respite care services, and supporting emergency department programs to support seniors to return to the community with enhanced home care services.

In partnership with Alberta Health Services, government increased the available continuing care capacity in the province by 1,002 spaces to address the needs of an aging population. These spaces support the Government of Alberta's *Continuing Care Strategy: Aging in the Right Place* and span the spectrum of continuing care settings, including supportive living and long-term care spaces.

In addition to adding more spaces to the current supply, government also provided financial support for the development of future spaces. In 2011-12, \$67.0 million was approved in funding from the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative to support the development and upgrading of seniors accommodations throughout Alberta. This important funding will support the development of 665 affordable supportive living spaces and 30 long-term care spaces to help seniors and persons with disabilities remain in the communities where they feel at home.

A continuing care capacity demand planning model was created with Alberta Health Services to project capacity demand to 2030, based on population projections and current and projected disease prevalence.

A Healthy Approach – Increase access to quality health care and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care service delivery.

Neighbours Helping Neighbours

Government concluded the Neighbours Helping Neighbours project in March 2012. Located in Edmonton and Jasper, it partnered volunteers with seniors or those with disabilities to help them with everyday tasks and keep them connected with their communities. A formal and comprehensive evaluation of the project has been completed, and government is studying the results to determine potential stakeholder partnerships and next steps.

Caregiver Support and Enhanced Respite Pilot Project

The Caregiver Support and Enhanced Respite Pilot Project was conducted in Edmonton. This project involved a comprehensive assessment of the caregivers of individuals living in the community, with supports and interventions being provided based on the needs of both the individuals and their caregivers, including the flexible provision of respite care services. Alberta Health Services is now working to expand this initiative provincially.

A pilot project in Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat was completed to evaluate assistive technologies that are designed to increase safety for seniors who live alone in their homes. These technologies are an integral component in the delivery of continuing care home care services.

Home Care Redesign Strategic Plan: Shaping the Future 2012-2015

A strategic policy document was developed entitled *Home Care Redesign Strategic Plan: Shaping the Future 2012-2015*. This document presents a comprehensive three-year plan to address provincial variation in Home Care Service Guidelines, the integration of home care with community and primary care supports and the types of services provided within the home care program.

Continuing Care Health Service Standards

The government has drafted a revision of the Continuing Care Health Service Standards to ensure that the continuing care system is flexible and responsive to the changing needs and expectations of its clients, to new models of care and to emerging best practices.

Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy

A transition team (a representative group of pharmacists and pharmacy owners) met with government throughout 2011-12 to discuss approaches to pharmacy services, including patient assessment by a pharmacist for renewal of prescriptions. Future implementation of expanded roles for pharmacists will build on the success of 2011-12 influenza season in which pharmacists provided over 85,000 Albertans with their flu shots.

Product Listing Agreement Policy

Product Listing Agreements (PLAs) are a mechanism by which therapies that may have otherwise not made it onto the provincial drug formulary (due to a high price or clinical uncertainty) can be listed and provide therapeutic choice to government-sponsored drug plan beneficiaries. PLAs are confidential contracts in which a drug manufacturer agrees to supply a drug at a confidential discounted price and/or provide research investment in the province. This has various benefits including increased access to new therapies, greater budget certainty/lower expenditures and investment in research within Alberta.

At the end of March 2012, 10 successful agreements have been negotiated to provide government-sponsored drug plan members access to therapies previously not covered by the Drug Benefit List. In addition, Pan-Canadian agreements for two drugs have been established.

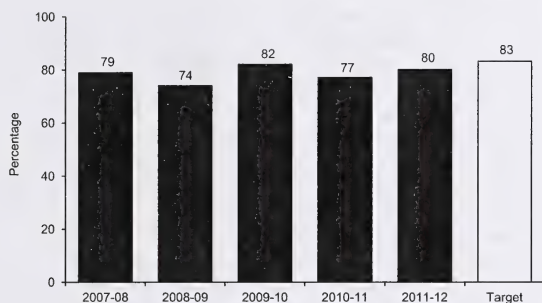
2 A Healthy Approach – Increase access to quality health care and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care service delivery.

Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Ease of Access to Services (see note 5)

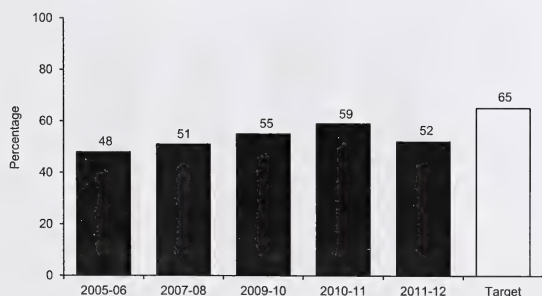
Physician Services – rating as easy or very easy



- ♦ A 2012 survey of Albertans age 18 and over found that 80 per cent, who had personally accessed physician services in the past twelve months, reported that it was easy or very easy to access services from their physician. This result is up from 77 per cent in 2010-11, but under the target of 83 per cent.
- ♦ As of March 31, 2012, the year-over-year increase in the number of physicians was 4.5 per cent. There were a number of physician increases in every health zone in Alberta.
- ♦ The 2011-12 result on ease of access to physician services may reflect lengthy wait times for physician specialist services. The government is continuing to collaborate with Alberta Health Services to address access issues.

Ease of Access to Services (see note 5)

Emergency Department Services – rating as easy or very easy



- ♦ The Health Quality Council of Alberta 2012 survey of Albertans age 18 and older found that, among those who had accessed emergency department services within the past year, 52 per cent rated ease of access to emergency department services as easy or very easy. This is a significant difference compared to 59 per cent in 2010-11, and is below the target of 65 per cent.
- ♦ Emergency department (ED) patient volumes have increased in Edmonton and Calgary over the past year. The challenge of meeting the increasing demands is compounded by spikes in emergency department visits – during influenza season, for instance – that can stress the overall health system and cause delays in delivery of care.
- ♦ Alberta Health Services is taking action to provide more timely access for patients who need emergency department care. They have implemented many initiatives to improve ED performance in 2011-12, such as an additional 1,002 continuing care beds, first available bed policies, introduction of rapid assessment zones, expansion of medical assessment units, and over-capacity protocols.

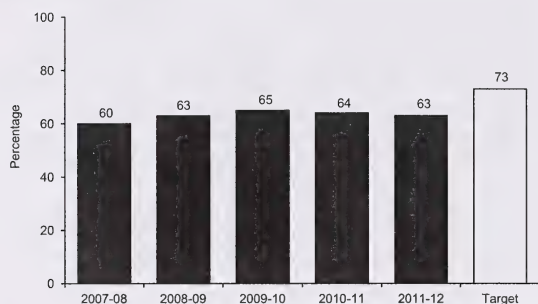
GOAL TWO 2 A Healthy Approach – Increase access to quality health care and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care service delivery.

Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Public Rating of Health System Overall (see note 6)

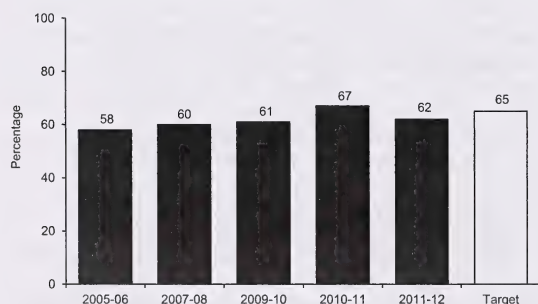
Rating as excellent or good.



- ♦ In 2011-12, 63 per cent of Albertans age 18 and over rated the health system overall as excellent or good. This is not a significant difference compared to 64 per cent in 2010-11, but is below the target of 73 per cent. Results for this measure have been fairly stable in recent years.
- ♦ Public rating of the health system is related to many different factors and issues. Over the past year, high profile reviews of health system quality and patient safety may have influenced public ratings of the health system and the quality of medical services provided to Albertans.
- ♦ The Health Quality Council of Alberta was asked to review multiple matters respecting patient safety and health service quality, including emergency medical services response times and emergency department wait times, quality of anatomical pathology specimen preparation and interpretation, quality of care and safety of patients requiring access to emergency department care and cancer surgery and the role of physician advocacy, and safety implications for patients requiring medevac services to and from the Edmonton International Airport.

Satisfaction with Health Care Services Received (see note 7)

Percentage of Albertans satisfied or very satisfied with health care services personally received in Alberta within the past year.



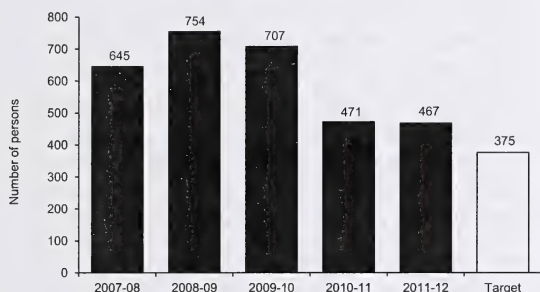
- ♦ The Health Quality Council of Alberta 2012 survey of Albertans found that 62 per cent of Albertans age 18 and over were satisfied or very satisfied with health care services received in Alberta within the past year. This result is significantly down from 67 per cent in 2010-11, and under the target of 65 per cent.
- ♦ As noted above, this past year has had an unprecedented number of inquiries and news releases regarding health system quality which may have impacted overall satisfaction.

Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Continuing Care (see note 8)

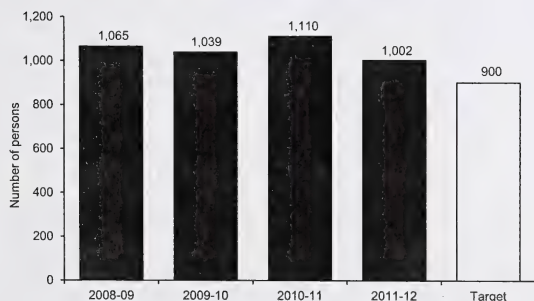
- Number of persons waiting in an acute care hospital bed for continuing care.



- At the end of March, 2012, a total of 467 persons were waiting in an acute/sub-acute hospital bed for continuing care.
- This result does not meet the target of 375 persons waiting in hospital for continuing care, and is essentially unchanged from the result achieved as of March, 2011.
- While the target was not met, the average time that individuals waited in hospital for a continuing care option decreased from 54 days to 41 days. There was also an increase in the total number of individuals being admitted to a continuing care living option, from 4,951 persons in 2010-11 to 5,337 persons in 2011-12.
- In partnership with Alberta Health Services, continuing care spaces increased by 1,002 spaces to address the needs of an aging population in 2011-12. These spaces support the Government of Alberta's *Continuing Care Strategy: Aging in the Right Place* and span the spectrum of continuing care facilities that include supportive living and long-term care spaces.

Continuing Care (see note 8)

- Number of persons waiting in the community for continuing care.



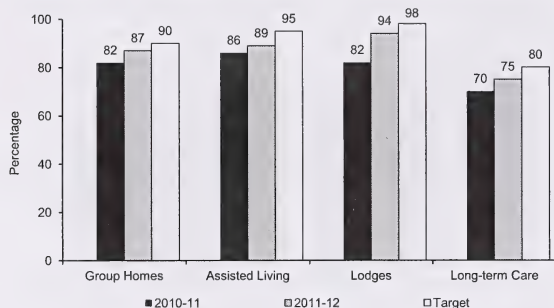
- At the end of March, 2012, a total of 1,002 persons were waiting in the community for continuing care. This result does not meet the target of 900 individuals waiting for continuing care admission while in the community.
- Although the actual number of people waiting in the community for continuing care has remained fairly stable over the past four years, there has been a shift in wait location. Between 2008-09 and 2011-12, the proportion of individuals admitted to continuing care from the community, and waiting in the community, has increased as a result of policy aimed at reducing acute care occupancy rates.
- Review of the waitlist for continuing care indicates that those waiting in the community include both those waiting urgently for the first available space, and those waiting until their first choice of location becomes available. The latter group includes individuals waiting for continuing care who may have been on the waitlist for an extended period of time; that is, they are being managed in the community and are able to wait until a space becomes available in their facility of choice.

Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Continuing Care (see note 8)

- Quality of accommodation services in supportive living and long-term care facilities, as indicated by the percentage of facilities reviewed that meet provincial standards: group homes; assisted living; lodges; and long-term care.



- ♦ Provincial accommodation standards support quality assurance in long-term care and supportive living accommodations; enhance monitoring; and provide information for measuring effectiveness in accommodation services.
- ♦ Though below targets, compliance rates increased in all categories in the 2011-12 fiscal year. The new accommodation standards have been in effect since April 2010 giving operators two years to adjust to the changes, resulting in improved compliance rates.
- ♦ Lower compliance rates in long-term care settings may be due to the ongoing maintenance needs of older buildings. For example, accommodations in older buildings may receive additional non-compliances related to minor maintenance, such as repairing doors or trim. Government works actively with each site to achieve compliance.

Strong Communities – Promote strong and vibrant communities and reduce crime so Albertans feel safe.

Safe Communities

In recent years, the crime rate in Alberta has declined and Albertans' perception of safety has improved. Over the same period of time, through the Safe Communities Initiative, government has taken an integrated and balanced approach to increasing safety and reducing crime. Significant investment has been made in crime prevention, treatment and enforcement throughout the province. This investment includes: increasing the number of police officers, probation and correctional peace officers and Crown prosecutors; increasing the number of addiction treatment beds and expanding other addiction and mental health services.

Impaired Driving (see also Goal Five Traffic Safety Initiatives)

Impaired driving remains the leading cause of criminal death in Canada. The Provincial Strategy to Reduce Impaired Driving is a comprehensive program designed to change that tragic fact. Developed over the course of several years, it draws on proven techniques from around the world to save lives. Legislation to implement the strategy, Bill 26, received Royal Assent in December 2011. Bill 26 uses a combination of administrative sanctions which deter dangerous behaviours, identify high risk offenders and provide the swift and significant penalties that have been proven, nationally and internationally, to decrease significantly the incidence of impaired driving. Over time, the provincial strategy is intended to change public attitudes toward drinking and driving.

Alberta's Crime Prevention Framework

Alberta's Crime Prevention Framework was announced by the premier in May 2011. The framework is the broad vision for crime prevention and reduction in the province. It represents a shift in government crime reduction policy from a focus on enforcement measures to a more balanced approach that supports an increased emphasis on prevention. The framework sets out a shared approach to plan, fund, implement and evaluate crime prevention initiatives across the province. Implementation of the framework focuses on supporting communities in capacity building and the

development of crime prevention plans that address local needs.

Integrated Justice Services Project

In February 2012, the Integrated Justice Services Project was launched. The project builds upon existing resources and successes of the Safe Communities Initiative to improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system by addressing the risk factors related to criminal behaviour. The first three-year pilot project, located at the Safe Communities Resource Centre in Calgary, has probation officers, Alberta Health Services staff and other service providers working with high-risk-to-re-offend individuals. These individuals receive intensive probation supervision, addiction treatment services, counselling and employment and skills supports to reduce their risk to re-offend so they can become contributing members of the community.

Alberta Gang Reduction Training Symposium

At the end of January 2012, more than 200 leaders from Alberta communities impacted by gang activity participated in the Alberta Gang Reduction Training Symposium. The Symposium gave participants the opportunity to learn from leading experts of evidence-based and promising gang reduction programs from across Canada and the United States. The symposium offered participants the tools to determine best practices in gang reduction and prevention in their own communities. At the event, participants were also asked to provide their feedback on the value of developing a provincial gang reduction practitioners' network.

Witness Security Program

Working with policing agencies, other partners and stakeholders to implement the Alberta Gang Reduction Strategy, the provincial witness security program was developed and implemented pursuant to *Alberta's Witness Security Act* and regulations, which came into force in April 2012. Police now have the option to apply either to the Alberta or federal witness protection program depending on what is appropriate in each particular case. Alberta's program

Strong Communities – Promote strong and vibrant communities and reduce crime so Albertans feel safe.

will be geared to less complex and shorter-term witness management, whereas the federal program is uniquely suited to address the needs of witnesses requiring long-term protection, identity changes and permanent relocation. This program will provide another tool for the Crown and police by addressing the need for short-term protective security to witnesses giving evidence in prosecutions.

Law Enforcement Framework

The *Law Enforcement Framework* (LEF) lays the foundation for an integrated and innovative approach to law enforcement in Alberta. The vision of the LEF is for policing to reflect the priorities of Albertans, be transparent and accountable in the delivery of services, and that policing and public safety resources are properly and appropriately utilized. The LEF is intended to make policing and law enforcement more efficient in Alberta through the development of: common information technology to enhance information sharing; better communications systems for first responders, increased use of all areas of law enforcement such as the specialized services provided by the sheriffs (allowing police services to focus on more serious demands); a new costing model; and, a state-of-the-art training facility for police and peace officers.

Safe Communities Innovation Fund

The successful pilot projects from the third Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF) call-for-projects were announced in 2011-12. Through SCIF, the Government of Alberta has invested a total of \$60 million in 88 pilot projects supporting communities across Alberta to reduce and prevent crime by focusing on important subjects such as vulnerable youth and domestic violence.

Priority Prolific Offender Program

Launched in 2008, the Priority Prolific Offenders Program (PPOP) is a focused and integrated strategy to improve coordination between courts, law enforcement and probation officers. The program receives referrals from law enforcement

of offenders who primarily commit numerous property and nuisance crimes in the community. PPOP attempts to ensure the courts have the most comprehensive information available on offenders through a Comprehensive Bail Package, so the most appropriate sentences are imposed and rehabilitation opportunities are realized. PPOP members jointly track these offenders through their involvement in the criminal justice system and make programming recommendations. These offender-specific recommendations are to promote rehabilitation through the provision of appropriate support services for the offender.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice focuses on addressing the causes of crime and repairing harm by helping offenders understand how their actions have affected victims and communities. Three common models are family group, conferencing circles and victim-offender conferences. In 2011-12, the Safe Communities Initiative supported eleven applications for restorative justice grant funding, totaling \$351,000.

Missing Persons Act

The *Missing Persons Act* was passed in 2011. Developed in partnership with the Calgary Police Service, Edmonton Police Service and the RCMP, the act allows police access to personal information of missing persons, when there is no reason to believe that a crime has been committed, in order to allow more efficient police investigations. The act also ensures that the information collected is protected if, once located by police, the person does not want to be contacted further.

Victims of Crime

The government continues to support victims of crime. Support is given through the Victims Financial Benefits Program which received 2,679 new applications during 2011-12 and has seen an approximate 150 per cent increase in new applications over the last ten years. During 2011-12, an effort has been made to improve the promptness of provision

of financial assistance through prioritization of files and ongoing process reviews. Under victim services community and specialized programs, initiatives have been developed and implemented that enhance services for human trafficking victims, immigrant victims, low income populations and victims of family violence.

In December 2011, Justice Canada announced funding for an Alberta Initiative Regarding Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women. This project will support the development of a provincial framework to address and respond to cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Alberta. It will also provide opportunities to work with Aboriginal communities and others to create a shared understanding of the impacts of this sensitive and complex issue on families and communities.

Correctional Services

Correctional Services uses various risk assessment and case management tools to supervise offenders in the community, especially higher risk offenders. A risk reduction strategy resulted in an increase in the number of staff that supervises offenders in the community. Since 2008, 130 additional probation officers have been hired. Fifty of these were hired in 2011-12. Probation officers receive training in motivational interviewing, an evidence-based method of engaging the offender in a manner that promotes positive behavior change and reduces the risk of re-offending.

Health Care Services in Provincial Adult and Young Offender Correctional Centres

In 2010, the delivery of health care services in provincial adult and young offender correctional centres was transferred to Alberta Health Services. Following the transfer, approximately 70 new Alberta Health Services positions were identified to assist adult inmates and young offenders with mental health and addictions problems. Approximately 30 of these are to assist in transitioning individuals from custody back into the community while the remaining positions are nurses, psychologists and other health

care professionals who deliver centre-based mental health and addiction programs and services. These programs and services complement a range of other programs available in young offender and adult correctional centres, including education, life skills, anger management, family violence prevention, work readiness training and chaplaincy programs.

Serving Albertans Most in Need

A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years

The Government of Alberta completed the third year of implementing A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years. With the assistance of community partners, over 5,900 formerly homeless people, including 1,200 families, have been housed, with approximately 80 per cent retaining their housing beyond the immediate term. In the past two years, several Alberta cities have reported a significant percentage decrease in the homeless population including: Edmonton (21 per cent), Calgary (11 per cent), Fort McMurray (42 per cent) and Lethbridge (74 per cent).

Affordable Housing

The Government of Alberta's five-year goal of 11,000 affordable housing units was exceeded. The units are dedicated for lower income individuals, families, seniors, Albertans with special needs and the homeless. In the past five years, over 12,100 affordable housing units have been supported by a capital grants approach that leverages private dollars with taxpayers' money through partnerships with municipalities, non-profit groups and the private sector. A total of \$120.19 million, including \$20.19 million in federal funding, was provided through the 2011-12 Housing Capital Initiative Program.

The government delivers capital grant programs to increase the province's supply of affordable housing, monitors agreements related to approximately 17,000 affordable housing units and ensures that the operations of the 26,500 provincially-owned and/or supported social housing units are managed effectively.

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Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Government of Alberta held community conversations with over 225 key stakeholders in Alberta's seven major cities to determine the role, mandate and composition of a new Interagency Council on Homelessness. The new council will lead and evolve the continued implementation of the homelessness plan using a systems approach to achieve Alberta's goal of ending homelessness by 2019. This evolution will move the plan's implementation from its initial phase of providing housing to end homelessness to the next phase of preventing homelessness and providing specialized supports to targeted groups of homeless Albertans.

Housing First Approach

Under A Plan for Alberta – Ending Homelessness in 10 Years, the Government of Alberta adopted the Housing First Approach whereby the homeless are provided permanent housing along with needed support services. Support services may include intensive medical, psychiatric and case management services including life skills training, landlord liaison assistance or addictions counseling. Studies show that supporting a chronically homeless person can cost upwards of \$100,000 per year in health, emergency and justice system services. Under Housing First, costs are less than \$35,000 per year to provide permanent housing and the supports needed to break the cycle of homelessness.

Youth Homelessness Strategy

As part of Alberta's 10-year plan to end homelessness, the government developed a draft strategy to address youth homelessness. The strategy's approach to reducing youth homelessness includes prevention and awareness building, early intervention, youth-centred supports, research and evaluation and stakeholder engagement. The government provided \$4.3 million to support the operation of 10 youth shelters, including funding for 65 beds. The Youth Homelessness Strategy will be completed in 2012-13.

Alberta Supports Initiative

The implementation of the Alberta Supports Initiative continued to improve how social-based assistance services are delivered to Albertans. By visiting the Alberta Supports website, Albertans can access information on more than 30 social-based programs and more than 120 services offered by government. In 2011-12, the Alberta Supports Contact Centre received more than 327,244 calls from Albertans for information related to seniors, employment and training, persons with disabilities, lower income, children and youth, abuse and bullying, homelessness and making life decisions.

Alberta Supports Pilot Projects

Alberta Supports pilot projects were conducted including the Transition from Child Disability Programs to Adult Pilot in central Alberta and the Slave Lake Coordinated Intake Pilot. The transition pilot looked at new ways to help vulnerable Albertans and their families navigate available services, and try out a new model for transition planning to adult independence. The coordinated intake pilot allowed Albertans to get information on social-based services by visiting only one office and talking to one intake person. Evaluations of these projects will help continued improvement of services throughout the province.

A number of other pilot projects around the province are underway to explore new approaches to delivering in-person services.

- ♦ In Barrhead, the Youth Transitioning to Adult Programs and/or Independent Living Initiative will introduce new processes and supports to help ensure Alberta youth in the Pembina Hills Regional School Division receive easier access to multiple programs.
- ♦ Under the Homeless Outreach Support Services Initiatives, homeless people in Lethbridge will be better connected to housing, benefits and supports, and in Edmonton the Coordinated Discharge Planning Initiative will ensure that patients in mental health acute care hospital beds

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in Edmonton are connected to housing, benefits and supports to prevent discharging patients into homelessness.

- ♦ In Edmonton, the Family Violence Client-Centred Supports Response Initiative will provide individuals and families who are victims of family violence with increased support to navigate Government of Alberta programs and services.

Aging Population Policy Framework

The Aging Population Policy Framework is designed to foster a holistic and collaborative approach to meeting the diverse needs of an aging population. The framework provides a common ground for decisions about policies, programs and supports for Alberta's aging population. The framework outlines the roles and responsibilities of government and its many partners (individuals and families, community organizations and other governments) and communicates key policy directions. The implementation of the framework is an ongoing process that is focused on meeting the needs of the growing number of seniors in coordinated, effective and sustainable ways.

- ♦ The *Seniors' Property Tax Deferral Act* was enacted to assist seniors with the cost of home ownership and support aging in place by allowing them to defer all or part of their property tax bills. The new act received royal assent in March 2012, with program implementation expected in 2013.
- ♦ To improve and enhance timely access to government supports, a Designated Assisted Living/Long-term Care Portal was implemented in April 2011. This web-based system allows long-term care and designated supportive living operators to update client residency data, permitting the provision of timely accommodation assistance to eligible residents. Currently, 200 out of 270 facilities are reporting client information through this system.
- ♦ The Government of Alberta released the *Mature Worker Action Plan* in April 2011. The action plan aims to make it easier for mature workers

to continue their participation in the workforce, enable them to continue contributing their skills and experience and continue to earn income.

- ♦ The provincial Elder Abuse Strategy directly relates to policy directions referenced in the framework. Released in November 2010, *Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta: A Strategy for Collective Action*, outlines key goals, outcomes and actions for government and community stakeholders to work together to effectively address and prevent elder abuse. Government has been advancing the strategy, including the development of an Elder Abuse Training Framework and resources that will enhance awareness and responses to elder abuse in the province. The government also supported Alberta's first Elder Abuse Conference, held October 2011, with the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network.
- ♦ The government has begun developing an electronic and print resource designed to encourage and assist Albertans to consider a variety of financial and non-financial matters related to retirement and older age. Topics include: financial planning; lifestyle planning; employment options; healthy aging; timing of retirement; advance (estate) planning; social supports and housing choices. The resource will include an assessment tool and related information to support the development of personal action plans. The resource is scheduled to be available later in 2012.

Albertans' Retirement

Alberta worked with the federal, provincial and territorial governments to develop a policy framework for legislation allowing the creation of Pooled Registered Pension Plans. These will be broad-based voluntary private sector plans that will give Canadian workers without pension plans an opportunity to save for retirement in a simple, cost-effective pension plan.

Brain Health Symposiums

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) hosted the Brain Health Symposiums in February 2012 in Calgary and in Edmonton. The OPG partnered

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with the Alzheimer Society of Alberta, Alberta Health Services and the Healthcare Professions Associations and Colleges for the conference. This symposium provided information to assist Albertans in maintaining their capacity and general health, as well as raising the awareness and acceptance of neuroplasticity among healthcare professionals. The symposium was open to the public.

Children and Youth

Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act

The *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* (AGTA) and *Personal Directives Act* (PDA) offer a variety of options to support adult Albertans who need assistance making personal and financial decisions. The protection of vulnerable people requires safeguards and the AGTA and PDA provide several protective measures including proactive suitability screening of applicants (e.g., criminal, personal reference and credit checks) and a rigorous complaints and investigations process. Most guardianship, co-decision-making and trusteeship arrangements work well; however, if problems exist, concerned individuals can register a complaint with a complaints officer.

Child and Youth Advocate

The Government of Alberta introduced new legislation to establish the Child and Youth Advocate as an independent officer of the Legislature. Bill 25, the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, will also expand the advocate's mandate to ensure those in the youth criminal justice system will have advocacy supports.

Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team

Alberta expanded the Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team (AVIRT). Now operating in Edmonton and Calgary, AVIRT involves child intervention caseworkers, public health nurses and police working together to provide intensive guidance and support for at-risk families with infants up to four months of age. The integrated approach provides immediate multi-disciplinary resources to support the safety and well-being of vulnerable infants.

Parent Link Centres

The Government of Alberta also expanded the capacity of Parent Link Centres to implement the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program. Triple P is an evidence-based parent education and family support program which helps prevent behavioural and social-emotional development problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents.

Aboriginal Children

Over 250 people from government, Aboriginal organizations and communities, Elders, private industry, elected officials, community agencies, kinship and foster care parents, and youth engaged in community conversations held in Edmonton, Lethbridge and Fort MacLeod. These ongoing community conversations create a shared understanding of the complex issues which contribute to the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the child intervention system and work towards identifying collective actions and best practices.

Strengthening Relationships

The Government of Alberta has a unique and strong relationship with Aboriginal peoples and is committed to building on this relationship.

Protocol Agreement on Government-to-Government Relations

In 2011-12, the Government of Alberta continued its efforts to implement the *Protocol Agreement on Government-to-Government Relations*, which sets out a framework for ongoing dialogue between the Government of Alberta and First Nations on matters of mutual concern. This included meetings between the premier, ministers and grand chiefs of Treaties 6, 7 and 8, where issues discussed included Alberta's review of The Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development and related Guidelines, the progress made under the Memorandum of Understanding on First Nations Education, and matters related to First Nations children and youth.

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First Nations Development Fund

Through the First Nations Development Fund, the Government of Alberta distributed approximately \$112 million to First Nations to support economic, social and community development projects. Over 250 community-based and community-designed programs were funded, including land-use planning, on-reserve infrastructure, housing, projects engaging youth and supporting Elders, and support for First Nation-owned businesses to improve employment and economic opportunities.

Urban Aboriginal Initiatives

In 2011-12, the Government of Alberta provided the Alberta Native friendship Centres Association and the 20 Alberta friendship centres with funding of \$757,000, which supported local community programming and friendship centre operations. Additional funding of \$250,000 was provided to five friendship centres to undertake various projects related to organizational capacity and community development.

In addition, in February 2012, the Government of Alberta, in conjunction with the Government of Canada and the City of Edmonton, hosted an Edmonton Aboriginal Gathering and Dialogue. Representatives from federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as a range of organizations, including business and industry, community service and Aboriginal organizations, participated in the event to discuss their interest for collaboration and coordination to improve the social-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people in Edmonton.

First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program

Through the First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program, the Government of Alberta provided \$6.8 million to First Nations in 2011-12 to support their continued participation in the consultation process for resource development and land management. The program assisted First Nations to develop effective, functioning consultation

structures, helped build First Nations' consultation staff capacity by providing funding for training, and helped implement Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy.

Consultation

In 2011-12, Aboriginal Consultation Units across the Ministries of Energy, Environment and Water and Sustainable Resource Development merged to form the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Aboriginal Affairs Branch. The branch is housed within Environment and Water with the purpose of improving the efficiency, effectiveness and consistency of Aboriginal relations, consultation, and engagement.

Metis Settlements

In May 2011, the Government of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council signed an agreement, called the Long-Term Arrangements, which committed to a process to conclude long term governance and funding arrangements. Since then, significant work has been done in terms of identifying the interests of the parties, and an agreement was reached on guiding principles and areas requiring attention.

In addition, the government provided three million dollars for three years for infrastructure on Metis Settlements to reflect Alberta's commitment to ensure the settlements could provide essential services to their members. The approach was to first apply the funds toward any settlement infrastructure emergencies, and second, to apply funds toward infrastructure in need of repair or updating (based on an independent engineering study) to prevent future emergencies. Some funding was also provided for information studies for the Long-Term Arrangements.

The government also continued to support the enhanced policing program for Metis Settlements. The enhanced policing pilot program, which has five additional RCMP officers dedicated to the eight Metis Settlements, continued for a second year. Preliminary indications suggest that the program is successful and

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is contributing to safer communities. The government provides funding for the program from the Safe Communities Initiative.

In August 2011, the government and the Metis Settlements General Council amended the Co-Management Agreement to allow for an alternative process respecting the exploration and development of oil and gas. The Co-Management Agreement is a schedule to the *Metis Settlements Act* and provides for rules respecting sub-surface mineral development.

Wildfires

Lesser Slave Lake Regional Wildfire – Response and Recovery

In May 2011, two separate fires started in the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124, near the Town of Slave Lake and the Sawridge First Nation which damaged or destroyed over 450 properties. The Government of Alberta staff worked closely with local government leaders and administrators, federal departments, non-governmental organizations and other affected parties to facilitate the recovery process.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner coordinated fire and incident management teams in the community, provided additional equipment, and supported the municipality's fire and investigation reporting activities.

Capacity was provided with the creation of the Regional Recovery Coordination Group, which was put in place to establish the supports necessary to focus on long-term re-building in the region.

The government committed \$289 million to help return the Lesser Slave Lake region to pre-disaster condition. The funds are administered through four envelopes: the Disaster Recovery Program (\$125.3 million); Community Stabilization funding (\$56.7 million); the Interim Housing Project (\$42.8 million); and projects identified in the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Wildfire Recovery Plan (\$64.2 million). The recovery plan sets out recovery projects and activities in support of the safety, health,

physical, mental and social well-being of affected communities and individuals; the protection and re-establishment of a healthy environment; the re-building of residential, commercial and public buildings that were damaged or destroyed; and the economic recovery of the region.

Awarding FireSmart Community Grants

The FireSmart Program, which educates municipalities and Albertans on wildfire prevention, continued in 2011-12. This program helps reduce the threat of wildfire and its impact on communities across Alberta. The FireSmart Community Grant Program awards funding to develop vegetation management programs, FireSmart education programs, community plans, and bylaws, along with cross-training initiatives to help prepare emergency responders from various agencies to respond to a wildfire.

Wildland Fire Investigations

The Office of the Fire Commissioner conducted two independent fire investigations in 2011-12. In November 2011, the office investigated a wildland fire in support of the Blood Tribe and County of Lethbridge. In January 2012, they investigated a wildland fire in the Municipal District of Willow Creek. Both fires resulted in significant damage to large tracts of land and building damage or destruction.

Municipalities

Municipal Sustainability Initiative

The Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) is the province's commitment to provide significant long-term funding to enhance municipal viability and to enable municipalities to meet the demands of growth. Municipalities received \$886 million in MSI funding in 2011-12 to assist in meeting infrastructure needs and other priorities in support of long-term viability.

In November 2011, the Government of Alberta announced it would establish minimum three-year funding cycles for municipalities, and to review and assess the MSI. As a result, changes were made

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to the MSI to increase the program's flexibility so municipalities are better able to direct funding to local priorities, and to implement more efficient application processes while maintaining appropriate accountability.

Municipal Sustainability Strategy

The Municipal Sustainability Strategy was developed by a working group of Government of Alberta staff and municipal association representatives. The strategy includes a self assessment toolkit for municipalities, an inventory of capacity-building resources, and a new and transparent municipal viability review process with a focus on developing locally driven solutions to local sustainability issues.

Regional Collaboration

The Government of Alberta continued to support and strengthen inter-municipal cooperation and regional approaches through the development of regional plans under the *Land-use Framework* as well as support for the strategic planning work of the Capital Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership. In addition, funding was provided to support strategic initiatives that improve the viability and long-term sustainability of municipalities through regional collaboration and capacity building.

Alberta Emergency Alert

The Alberta Emergency Alert was launched in June 2011. This program, which replaced the Emergency Public Warning System, uses digital technology and common standards to reach Albertans in new ways including social media, RSS feeds (a method to publish frequently updated works such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video in a standardized format), and a dedicated website. Throughout the summer and fall of 2011, more than 300 communities and 1,200 users were trained to use Alberta Emergency Alert.

Strengthening Community Resilience

In 2011-12, the Government of Alberta worked with public safety partners to improve community resilience through the strengthening of the mitigation and preparedness efforts of its partners.

- ♦ \$664,486 was provided to 52 municipalities to improve their fire services and emergency preparedness and \$150,000 was provided to 14 organizations for ground search and rescue training.
- ♦ The government facilitated 28 municipal requests totaling \$325,000 for the federal Joint Emergency Preparedness Program to assist communities to obtain emergency response equipment, and for training, emergency planning and the conduct of business continuity exercises.

Disaster Recovery and Municipal Wildfire Assistance

Thirteen disaster recovery programs were approved in 2011-12, with an initial budget of \$211.7 million. The programs were launched to assist residents, small businesses and municipal governments to recover from uninsurable damage caused by severe storms and wildfires.

Culture and Community

Support to Public Library Service

The Government of Alberta provides leadership in library policy development; supports the province-wide public library network in providing public library services to Albertans; provides funding assistance to library boards to help them operate, as well as to capitalize on the use of technology; and supports the network for communications and shared library resources across the province. The government invested almost \$31 million in 2011-12 to support public library service in Alberta.

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Participation in the Arts

Participation in the arts remains high in Alberta and may be attributed in part to the work undertaken with artists, arts organizations and cultural industries to promote participation in, and foster an appreciation of, the arts and cultural events. In 2011-12, over \$24 million in grants were provided by the government to fund arts-related activities, with 86.6 per cent of this funding given to 762 organizations (including 180 schools) for operational and project funding, as well as to amateur arts organizations to support their activities.

Volunteerism

The government's commitment to volunteerism is demonstrated through a provincial focus on National Volunteer Week and the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards programs that recognize the importance of volunteerism to the health and wellness of Alberta communities.

Education

Proposed Education Act

As part of the transformation of the education system, the Government of Alberta conducted extensive work on the development of a new *Education Act*, which reflected the findings of the Inspiring Education dialogue with Albertans. In the fall 2011 students, parents, teachers and other members of the public were encouraged to provide input on the new education legislation and how to improve Alberta's education system through the Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right public engagement process. More than 5,000 Albertans responded with their ideas on Alberta's education legislation through seven community meetings, as well as online and via email, Facebook, Twitter and regular mail. After incorporating this feedback, Bill 2 – the *Education Act* was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in February, 2012.

Separate School Establishment Process

The Government of Alberta also developed a new separate school establishment process in collaboration with the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association and the Alberta School Boards Association. The new separate school establishment process requires greater collaboration between separate and public school boards and for more information to be provided to all members of the community, and allows for greater community participation, while honouring the constitutionally protected rights of the minority denomination.

St. Albert and Sturgeon Valley School Districts Establishment Act

To address longstanding issues with respect to the provision of public education in Morinville, government developed the *St. Albert and Sturgeon Valley School Districts Establishment Act*. The act received Royal Assent in March, 2012. It is expected the act will be proclaimed prior to the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, providing students in Morinville with access to public education in their community.

Inclusive Education Capacity Building

Inclusion in the education system is about ensuring that each student belongs and receives a quality education no matter what their ability, disability, language, cultural background, gender or age. As part of the transformation of the education system, the Government of Alberta announced new inclusive education capacity building funds to support inclusive practice in schools across Alberta. The government distributed \$12 million to school authorities to build capacity in support of inclusive education, and is piloting an Inclusive Education Planning Tool in over 200 schools in 54 school authorities across the province.

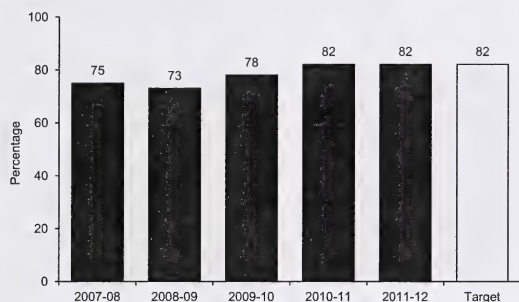
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Public Perception of Safety in the Neighbourhood (see note 9)

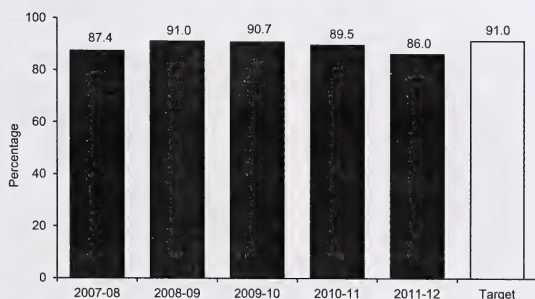
The percentage of Albertans who feel reasonably safe to very safe walking alone in their area after dark.



- In 2011-12, the majority of Albertans (82 per cent) felt reasonably safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood or area after dark. This is the second year in a row the target of 82 per cent has been achieved.
- Perceptions of safety in the neighbourhood are shaped by a number of factors including citizens' previous victimization experience, media reports of crime, and the experiences of friends and family.
- Higher perceived safety levels were identified among residents in smaller cities in northern and southern Alberta, men, those in households with an annual income of \$60,000 or more, and respondents who feel very safe when in their own home after dark.

Participation in the Arts (see note 10)

Percentage of adult Albertans who participated in arts activities or events.



- In 2011-12, 86.0 per cent of adult Albertans participated in or attended arts activities or events. The result was 5.0 per cent less than the target of 91.0 per cent and 3.5 per cent lower than last year's result. While Albertans' involvement in artistic activities remained consistent to 2010-11, attendance at live performances (-5.3 per cent), visitation of an arts exhibition or gallery (-4.3 per cent), and purchasing of an arts product (-5.1 per cent) decreased.
- These activities generally have a cost associated with them and the decreases are consistent with Albertans indicating cost as a barrier to attending cultural activities (14.9 per cent in 2010-11 and 19.0 per cent in 2011-12). The continued concern over the economy and the cost of events and art products may have contributed to cost being a barrier to attending cultural activities. Albertans also indicated that a lack of time was the primary reason hindering their attendance (44.4 per cent) and participation (53.7 per cent).

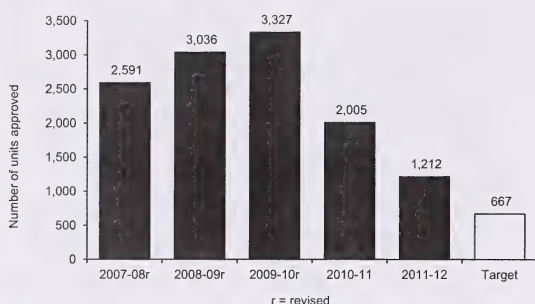
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Affordable Housing Units (see note 11)

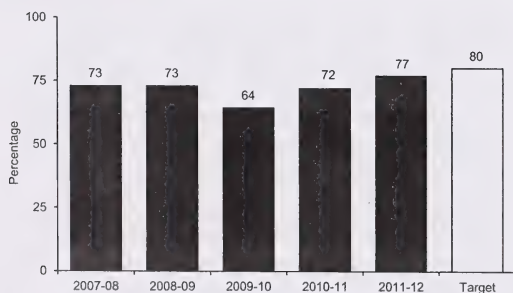
Number of affordable housing units approved for development



- ♦ The number of affordable housing units approved for development was 1,212 surpassing the target of 667 for 2011-12.
- ♦ Construction and purchase costs with new affordable housing units have experienced a reduction due to a shift in the Alberta economy.
- ♦ The Housing Capital Initiative leverages private dollars with taxpayers' money through community partnerships, which allows more units to be built. The average grant-per-unit from the Government of Alberta is approximately \$100,000, which represents about 50 per cent of the average per unit cost of new construction.

Albertans' Satisfaction with their Local Governments (see note 12)

Percentage satisfied.



- ♦ Albertans' satisfaction with their local governments increased by five per cent from 2010-11 to 77 per cent.
- ♦ The survey responses do not allow for conclusive determination of the factors causing this increase. Municipalities were not only continuing to experience the same challenges from the previous year, but were having to work within the confines of a global economic recession and a third consecutive provincial deficit budget.
- ♦ It is possible that the change in composition of municipal councils at the October 2010 municipal elections and the accomplishments of these newly composed councils resulted in the public having a more favourable impression of municipal governments.

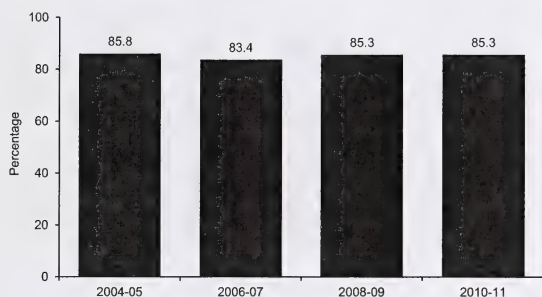
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Support for Albertans with Developmental Disabilities (see note 13)

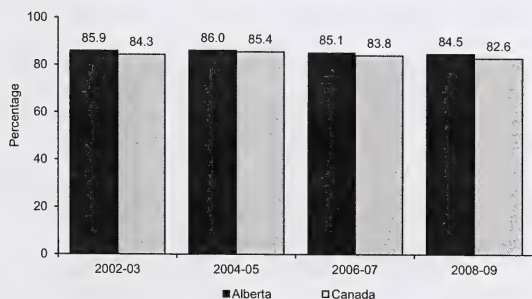
Satisfaction of families/guardians of adults with developmental disabilities with Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)-funded services.



- In 2010-11, 85.3 per cent of families/guardians (public and private) reported overall satisfaction with PDD-funded services received by the person to whom they provide guardianship. Overall satisfaction consists of those who strongly agree, agree or somewhat agree that they are satisfied with PDD-funded services.
- The PDD program provides funding for staff supports for adult Albertans with developmental disabilities, to support them in their home, work, and social environments based on individual need.
- Results for this measure are collected every second year. Next year results will be available in 2012-13.

Social and Emotional Development (see note 14)

– Healthy social development – Percentage of Alberta children demonstrating healthy social development



- In 2008-09, 84.5 per cent of Alberta's children demonstrated healthy social development, meeting the target to maintain or improve Alberta's results relative to the national average.
- The survey results have been gradually declining both nationally and provincially. Thresholds (or cut-off points) for the social development scale were established to identify low levels of healthy social development.
- The government funds a range of services in many communities throughout the province aimed at providing supports to parents and families to assist with their child's learning, development and health, such as Parent Link Centres.
- The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth was discontinued in 2010. The last results are for 2008-09.

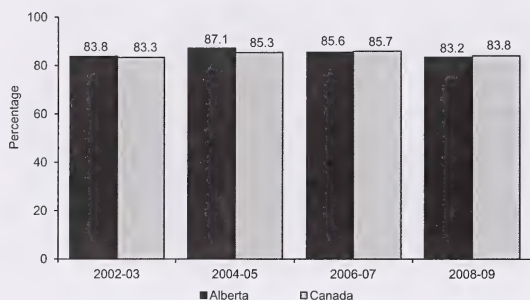
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Social and Emotional Development (see note 14)

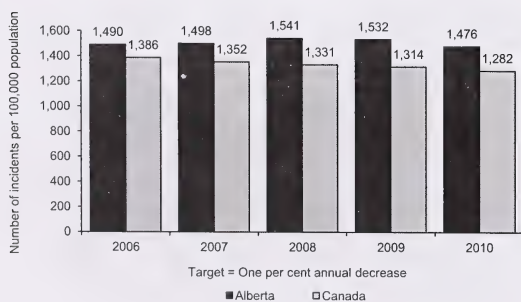
– **Healthy emotional development** – Percentage of Alberta children demonstrating healthy emotional development



- ♦ In 2008-09, 83.2 per cent of Alberta's children demonstrated healthy emotional development.
- ♦ The government funds a range of services in many communities throughout the province aimed at providing supports to parents and families to assist with their child's learning, development and health, such as Parent Link Centres which have been fully operational across the province since 2006-07, provide support for parents and families that promote healthy child development.
- ♦ The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth was discontinued in 2010. The last results are for 2008-09.

Violent Crime Rate (see note 15)

Rate of violent crime per 100,000 population.



- ♦ Alberta's violent crime rate decreased by 3.7 per cent in 2010. It has remained relatively stable over the past five years. After rising in 2007 and 2008, it has fallen in each of the past two years; from 1,532 incidences in 2009 to 1,476 in 2010. While still above the national average, it is the fourth lowest rate among the provinces. There were 77 homicides in Alberta in 2010, 18 fewer than in 2009.
- ♦ Factors influencing crime patterns include age structure of the population, unemployment, inflation, alcohol and drug consumption, educational attainment and social attitudes.
- ♦ Alberta has a younger more mobile population and a higher proportion of aboriginal people than most other Canadian jurisdictions. These population groups tend to be over-represented as both offenders and as victims of crime.

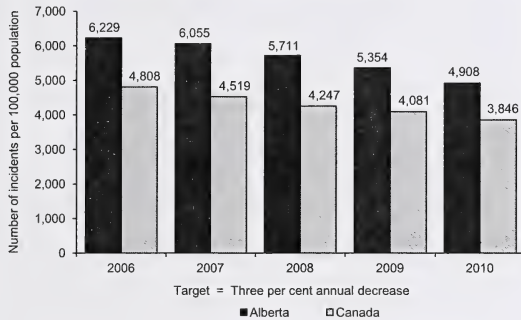
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Property Crime Rate (see note 16)

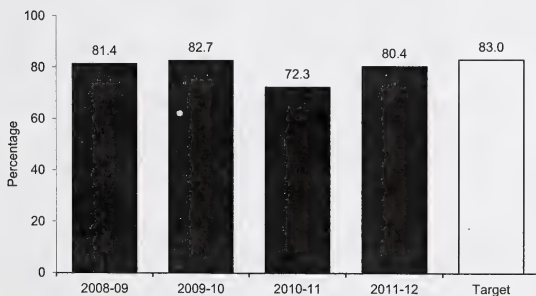
Rate of violent crime per 100,000 population.



- The property crime rate has decreased in Alberta by 8.3 per cent, from 5,354 in 2009 to 4,908 in 2010. It has been decreasing over the past ten years, at times faster than the national rate.
- There are many factors that contribute to the outcome of this measure such as those related to education, demographics and economic conditions.
- Crime rate can be responsive to policy and program interventions including public education and information programs and initiatives, policing, crime prevention, and correctional services.

Volunteerism (see note 17)

Percentage of adult Albertans who volunteered in their community.



- The result of 80.4 per cent was 2.6 per cent less than the 2011-12 target of 83.0 per cent. However, the result is 8.1 per cent higher than the 2010-11 result and is consistent with the results from 2008-09 and 2009-10.
- The Alberta volunteerism rate is influenced by Alberta's economy, job market and the amount of free time Albertans have to volunteer. This year there was a significant increase in informal volunteering, from 56.4 per cent in 2010-11 to 67.3 per cent in 2011-12. Increases in volunteering in 2011-12 were also seen in the areas of human services (2.4 per cent), arts and culture (1.9 per cent), and other volunteer areas (7.9 per cent). Volunteer rates in the areas of sports (-3.2 per cent) and youth development (-4.5 per cent) decreased.

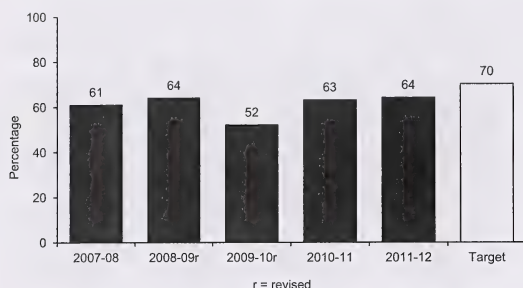
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Support for Albertans with Low Incomes Who Need Temporary Help (see note 18)

Percentage of participants employed after leaving income support.



- ♦ In 2011-12, 64 per cent of participants were employed at any time since leaving the program. While this measure result did not reach the stretch target of 70 per cent, it increased by one percentage point over the previous year, bringing it back to the 2008-09 level – the highest result over the last five years.
- ♦ Labour market conditions, prior education, work experience and other barriers affecting participants impacted employment outcomes. As Alberta's economy and labour market slowly continues to recover, it is expected that this measure result will continue to improve.
- ♦ Those that stopped receiving income support have transitioned to training programs, entered new partnerships or received support from other sources (CPP, EI and disability-related income).

4 Creating Opportunity – Enhance value-added activity, increase innovation, and build a skilled workforce to improve the long-run sustainability of Alberta's economy.

Competitiveness

Alberta continues to take steps to diversify Alberta's reach and build networks with international governments and industry to increase Alberta's exports, attract investment and positively impact the provincial economy.

Strengthening Partnerships

The premier undertook a mission to Toronto and Ottawa in November 2011 to build effective relations with the federal government and emphasize the impacts its decisions have on Alberta. On this mission, the premier also delivered a keynote address to the Economic Club of Canada to underscore Alberta's vision for energy development, as well as the province's contributions to Canada's fiscal stability and growth. Premier Redford also met with Prime Minister Harper in November 2011 to share perspectives on key national and global issues. The premier attended a Council of the Federation meeting in January 2012, where premiers emphasized the importance of growing the Canadian economy and focused on actions to enhance prosperity.

In 2011-12, the premier led four missions to the United States to highlight the global importance of Alberta's energy resources. During these missions, the premier met with a diverse set of stakeholders to reinforce Alberta's commitment to environmentally responsible energy development and to promote opportunities for trade and investment in other sectors.

An Alberta representative to Asia (based in Hong Kong) was appointed in fall 2011 to lead the province's strategic outreach efforts to enhance our presence and cultivate new opportunities in the region.

Work was undertaken with various partners and stakeholders to expand market access attract investment, and make Alberta a preferred global supplier of agricultural, energy and forestry products. Assistance was provided to export-ready Alberta businesses to market their products and services internationally and to build relationships with

potential investors and customers. Alberta was promoted as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment to targeted companies within priority sectors and to capital investors.

New West Partnership

The New West Partnership Trade Agreement was expanded in 2011-12 through work Alberta completed with its partners British Columbia and Saskatchewan. In July 2011, changes were brought in to streamline trucking regulations across the three most western provinces and work to reconcile other economic areas will be completed by July 2012. Also by this time, Saskatchewan's crown sector and broader public sector (municipalities, post-secondary institutions, school boards and health entities) will be brought under the agreement. The agreement will be fully implemented with the inclusion of financial services sector in July 2013.

In December 2010, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan's Energy Ministers signed an Energy Memorandum of Understanding (Energy MOU) to establish a collective framework to strengthen and expand the region's energy sector. The three New West Partnership (NWP) provinces continue to work toward strengthening and expanding the region's energy sector under the Energy MOU. Among joint activities under the Energy MOU, the Government of Alberta is working with British Columbia and Saskatchewan to collaborate and share information on industry standards and practices related to water use and hydraulic fracturing.

The premiers of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan met in Edmonton in December 2011 to discuss ongoing joint work under the NWP agreement. They agreed to undertake a mission to Ottawa in 2012 to engage the federal government on issues including a Canada Energy Strategy, immigration, labour market development, greenhouse gas regulations, the promotion of the political interests of the New West within the Confederation, and promoting western Canada to new international markets. As a result of the December meeting, Alberta

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is working with British Columbia and Saskatchewan to develop a New West Partnership labour force strategy.

Agreement on Internal Trade

Alberta worked with federal/provincial/territorial governments to improve the dispute mechanism that allows persons to bring complaints against governments through the Agreement on Internal Trade. This mechanism which is intended to ensure compliance with interprovincial trade commitments was built largely on the model used in the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

Alberta has successfully pursued its interests by challenging trade restrictive measures in other Canadian jurisdictions. Most recently was Alberta's challenge against Ontario's restrictions on Alberta's public accountants doing business with Ontario clients. These restrictions are being removed.

Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

Alberta participated in the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations in 2011-12, attending preparatory federal/provincial/territorial meetings as well as negotiating sessions between Canada and the EU. Alberta also attended the annual meeting of federal/provincial/territorial ministers responsible for international trade. Participation in these events helped to ensure Alberta's key priorities and interests were communicated to the Government of Canada, including to federal negotiators and, where appropriate, to officials from the province's key international trading partners.

Alberta Competitiveness Council

In 2011 the Alberta Competitiveness Council announced 18 priority actions to improve Alberta's overall competitiveness as well as the competitiveness of four specific sectors: agriculture (grains and oilseeds), manufacturing, financial services, and petrochemicals/chemicals. The actions are highlighted in the Alberta Competitiveness Council's report, *Moving Alberta Forward*. The actions are either underway or complete and demonstrate a strong

partnership between industry and government to improve and sustain the province's competitiveness in the global economy.

Incremental Ethane Extraction Program

Government expanded the Incremental Ethane Extraction Program (IEEP), allowing Alberta's petrochemical industry to reduce Green House Gas emissions and increasing value-added investment in Alberta. The program acts as a catalyst for petrochemical producers to expand their ethane supply from non-traditional sources, such as the utilization of otherwise burned waste-gas from upgraders and refineries.

The IEEP supported the production of more than 8,000 barrels per day in incremental ethane in 2011-12. Alberta's petrochemicals industry used these volumes to manufacture products and materials used daily by other industries and Albertans.

Red Tape Reduction Task Force

The Red Tape Reduction Task Force was established in December 2011 to recommend actions to reduce regulatory burden affecting small businesses in Alberta. The Task Force consulted with small business leaders and associations from across the province. Additionally, research was initiated to assess Alberta's regulatory performance relative to other Canadian jurisdictions and identify potential areas for improvement in business regulation. The Task Force has considered this input and developed recommendations for government consideration.

Productivity Alberta

Productivity Alberta transitioned from a government entity to a private, not-for-profit company with a strong industry board. Through this new structure, Productivity Alberta is able to deliver increased productivity assistance services, such as productivity assessment tools and lean manufacturing techniques that enable Alberta's firms to be increasingly competitive.

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Agriculture and Agri-Food

In May and November 2011, the government undertook two very successful joint missions to China with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Market Access Secretariat and Canadian/Alberta dairy, beef breeding and canola industry associations. These missions focused on promoting Canadian offerings in dairy genetics and live cattle, canola meal, and research and development collaboration. In November 2011, the government led a mission to India focused on developing initial government and industry networks and ascertaining long term opportunities in canola oil, livestock genetics, animal nutrition and agri-machinery.

Since January 2009, the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency Ltd. has approved more than \$80 million for projects that enhance and support Alberta's livestock industry, with a projected value of \$313 million.

In January 2012, the government announced that after an eight-year ban, producers will now be able to export beef from cattle younger than 30 months to South Korea. The South Korean market was the last major Asian market to remove its ban on Canadian beef. In 2002, Alberta exported \$442.6 million in beef to South Korea. The restoration of market access to Korea is a key development in restoring lost markets and expanding access for Alberta's beef products.

Additionally, in March 2012, the government celebrated the announcement that China will provide immediate access for Canadian beef tallow to its market, allowing Canadian beef tallow exports to China for the first time in nearly a decade. With a growing middle class, China is a market with important potential for Alberta's agri-food products.

Continued advocacy work also resulted in an end to the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly whereby Alberta's grain farmers now have the right to choose how to market their own grain by August 2012. This will help farmers participate in a competitive marketplace, maximize returns, grow the agriculture and value-added sectors and continue to drive the Canadian economy.

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

The Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) continues to offer financial and lending services that support the development and expansion of agriculture, agri-business, value-added enterprises and commercial operations. Over the past seven years, lending activity has generated almost four billion dollars in economic activity across the province, with the majority of that in rural Alberta. The demand for loans through AFSC is now approaching \$500 million per annum.

Innovation

The government advanced several successful innovation, productivity and diversification initiatives including the Building Information Modeling Centre for Excellence; the Alberta Metal Fabrication Innovation Program, and the Alberta Financial Services Alliance Steering Committee. Valuable partnerships were formed with multinational companies and foreign institutions from priority markets. These include a memorandum of understanding to advance early-stage pharmaceutical innovations and a joint research, development, and commercialization funding program with the Mexican state of Jalisco to support collaborative technology commercialization projects.

Northern Alberta Development Council

In 2011-12, the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) continued to support the development of Alberta's north by working with regional stakeholders. Issues as diverse as northern transportation corridors and infrastructure; agriculture and forestry industry development; health initiatives; and secondary and post-secondary education were investigated collaboratively.

NADC, in collaboration with the government, delivered 203 student bursaries to support the attraction of skilled professionals needed to support communities and development in northern Alberta. In 2011-12, 85 per cent of bursary recipients returned to northern Alberta to work and live.

GOAL FOUR **4** **Creating Opportunity – Enhance value-added activity, increase innovation, and build a skilled workforce to improve the long-run sustainability of Alberta's economy.**

Economic Summit

In an effort to align economic development activities across the province, the government gathered Alberta's senior economic development professionals and leaders together for the *2012 Economic Development Summit*. As part of the discussion, a need was identified for government to provide leadership to guide the province's economic development decisions. The summit was an important first step in developing a common understanding of the province's economic development priorities and increase awareness of the interconnectedness of Alberta's economic development organizations.

Forest Resource Competitiveness

Alberta's forest industry generates more than four billion dollars per year in revenue and supports about 18,000 jobs. More than 50 communities in Alberta look to the forest industry for their livelihoods. In 2011-12, the Government of Alberta continued to work with the forest industry to identify options to improve the sector's long-term viability. Of significance was working with the forest industry to develop the Forest Products Roadmap, a strategy to redefine the province's forestry sector, develop new markets and products, and leverage the unique properties of wood fibre.

In 2011-12 the government also continued its work with neighboring provinces and the forest industry to meet the growing demand for wood products in Asia. Sending Alberta wood products to Asian markets is expected to enhance the health of Alberta's forest sector and restore jobs in Alberta's forestry-dependent communities.

A Value-added and Innovative Economy

As outlined in the *Provincial Energy Strategy* a value-added and innovative economy includes promoting the development of a world-class hydrocarbon processing cluster that can realize the commercially viable production of clean fossil fuels using gasification and carbon capture and storage technologies.

Bitumen Royalty-in-Kind Program

In consultation with oil sands producers, the government developed an implementation methodology for the Bitumen Royalty-in-Kind program to provide the Crown with physical access to bitumen blend when and where it is needed to support strategic initiatives, such as the Processing Agreement with the North West Redwater Partnership, which is currently developing a five billion dollar upgrader/refinery in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.

Innovative Energy Technologies Program

During 2011-12, the Innovative Energy Technologies Program (IETP) continued its commitment to establish the province as a world-class centre for responsible energy development. By fiscal year end, the Government of Alberta had funded 37 projects through the first five IETP rounds. These projects address a variety of research interests such as advancing production technologies to produce bitumen in reservoirs that are not yet commercial, better understanding of coal-bed methane production, and expansion of new enhanced oil and gas recovery technologies into previously inaccessible or challenging oil and gas deposits. In addition, round six of the IETP came open for applications, and by the end of March 2012, successful applicants were notified and drafting of approvals was initiated. These projects will be announced publicly once all approvals are finalized. As part of facilitating innovation, the government met with all active project operators to discuss 2010 performance. Fifteen project reports for 2008 were made public.

Rural Alberta Business Centre Pilot Program

The Rural Alberta Business Centre (RABC) Pilot Program was launched to provide on-the-ground advice and information services to entrepreneurs and small businesses. The 3-year pilot will contribute to the diversification and strengthening of rural economies by helping local businesses identify and capitalize on both global and provincial opportunities. Eight RABCs were opened in 2011-12.

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Innovation in Clean Energy Technologies

A memorandum of understanding between the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada was signed enabling collaboration on a broad array of oil sands and clean energy research. This collaboration will enhance the industry's capacity to achieve responsible and sustainable oil sands development.

A detailed analysis was completed in 2011 on the commercial viability of extracting remaining hydrocarbons and heavy minerals from oil sands mining froth treatment tailings. Various options are being examined that could provide the appropriate incentives to oil sands lessees in applying this extraction technology. These options are being developed by companies for tailings management. For instance, significant quantities of zircon are found in oil sands tailings attracting the interests of companies to invest in zircon recovery and commercialization using this new technology.

Manufacturing Technology Adoption Initiatives

Alberta established manufacturing technology adoption initiatives in the metal manufacturing, aerospace and building products sectors, offering industry improved entry points to production technologies that increase employee and capital productivity.

Collaborating with the industrial construction sector, government developed labour demand and supply projections which assist in forecasting and enable industry and government to find innovative solutions for the development of more precise, harmonized strategies for the advancement of the sector.

Securities Regulatory System

Alberta initiated a reference to the Alberta Court of Appeal regarding the constitutionality of the federal government's proposal for a single federal securities regulator and intervened in support of Québec in a similar reference to the Québec Court of Appeal. Alberta also intervened in the federal government's reference to the Supreme Court of

Canada to determine the constitutional validity of its draft securities legislation. In March 2011, the two provincial courts of appeal found the draft federal legislation to be constitutionally invalid. In December 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada released its unanimous opinion that the federal government lacked the legislative authority to enact its draft securities legislation. The Supreme Court clarified that day-to-day regulation of securities is a provincial responsibility. The Supreme Court also noted that the provinces and federal government could take a cooperative approach that respects provincial jurisdiction while allowing the federal government to deal with areas of national concern. Alberta will continue to work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to improve the current securities regulatory system.

A Skilled and Educated Workforce

Advanced Learning System

The government provided nearly \$2.2 billion in operating funding to publicly-funded post-secondary institutions and \$255 million to support the expansion and preservation of post-secondary facilities. This funding secures a foundation on which the advanced learning system can build, and continues the government's support for post-secondary education in Alberta.

To encourage research excellence in Alberta, the government worked with Alberta's four comprehensive academic and research institutions and Alberta Innovates to create 16 Campus Alberta Innovation Program Chairs. The program is designed to recruit new research leaders to Alberta in strategic priority areas of energy and environment, food and nutrition, neuroscience/prions and water.

The government announced changes to the Alberta Student Aid Program introducing a flat rate student contribution and allowing students who move from full-time to part-time studies to begin repayments after graduation instead of immediately upon their change in status. Alberta is the first Canadian province to implement these two progressive changes in financial aid for post-secondary students. Government's

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longstanding commitment to access to affordable advanced learning opportunities can be seen in consistently high public satisfaction with access and graduate satisfaction with value-for-money.

The government rewarded learner excellence and supported affordable learning opportunities by awarding \$70 million in scholarships to nearly 37,000 students, and providing \$268 million in provincial loans and \$18 million in grants and bursaries to over 54,000 students.

Foreign Credential Recognition

The government established a framework and evaluation process for foreign credential recognition to help Alberta meet its labour demands and strengthen the province's ties with the global skilled trades community. Additionally, in June 2011 a new online tool was developed to support employers in the attraction and retention of skilled immigrants into Alberta's workplaces. Education Overview Guides (EOG) provide employers and human resources professionals with easy access to foreign credential assessment information to help them better understand academic credentials earned abroad. Although employers are the primary target user group for the EOGs, they will also be useful to immigrants already in Alberta/Canada, prospective immigrants as well as students who are planning to study abroad to understand how potential overseas credentials compare.

High School Completion

Completing high school is a critical step for Alberta's youth in creating a positive future for themselves and their families, and to participate fully in a growing and dynamic economy. The Alberta High School Completion Framework is supported by a number of innovative projects and initiatives related to five core strategies – student engagement, successful transition, collaborative partnerships, positive connections and tracking progress. More information on initiatives related to each of these five strategies is available online at: www.education.alberta.ca. For example, as part of

its comprehensive high school completion strategy, in 2011-12 government:

- ♦ Developed four reading intervention training modules;
- ♦ Piloted the second year of a three-year Tell Them From Me Online Student Engagement Survey project in school jurisdictions; and
- ♦ Posted the High School Completion Progress Report online at: www.education.alberta.ca.

Curriculum Redesign

In 2011-12, government completed extensive work on Curriculum Redesign, which is aimed at ensuring that Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum (programs of study, assessment, and learning and teaching resources) remains responsive and relevant for students. Three research roundtables were held and an Action on Curriculum Symposium was co-hosted by government and the Alberta Teachers' Association, resulting in the development of the draft Guiding Principles for Future Curriculum Design. A draft of the curriculum standards and guidelines was developed to align with the Guiding Principles for Future Curriculum Design. A pilot strategy was developed for curriculum redesign with Red Deer Catholic School Division.

Provincial Dual Credit Strategy

Dual credit opportunities provide high school students with a way of bridging Kindergarten to Grade 12 and post-secondary education. Students can participate in apprenticeship training or post-secondary college, technical or university courses and earn both high school and post-secondary credits for the same course.

In January 2012, an initiative was started to create more opportunities for students to earn credits in high school and post-secondary institutions at the same time. This strategy is under development and will be finalized in the near future.

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Workforce Investment

Alberta Works Centres

Government is investing in an internationally competitive workforce that employs leading technologies and develops innovative approaches to address present and future challenges. Alberta Works Centres across the province worked with business and industry to assist with attraction and retention of workers as well as address workforce adjustment needs. This included over 350 on-site recruitment events held in Alberta Works Centres, large scale job fairs and sector-specific recruitment events in communities across Alberta. Alberta Works Centres play a key role in providing tools and resources to help Albertans find and keep employment. In 2011-12, approximately 1.9 million Albertans visited Alberta Works Centres across Alberta. To connect Albertans to the labour market, staff provides job leads, labour market information, career and employment consultation and print and online resources. Workshops assist Albertans to make the right choices for their training and employment needs. Webcam technology is being utilized to improve services to rural Albertans.

Aboriginal Workforce Initiatives

Government has recognized that the Aboriginal population is younger and growing at a faster pace than the non-Aboriginal population and is a promising skilled and competitive workforce for the province. The Alberta Works Program enhanced labour force participation of the Aboriginal population in Alberta's labour market through employment-focused, industry-connected training in trades careers and promotion of health careers for Aboriginal youth.

Connecting the Dots: Aboriginal Workforce and Economic Development in Alberta and the Government of Alberta Response to the Report

In May 2011, the Government of Alberta released an MLA Committee Report titled Connecting the Dots: Aboriginal Workforce and Economic Development in Alberta and the government's response to the report. The MLA committee was appointed to

engage with Aboriginal leaders, organizations and stakeholders (industry, training and service providers, educational institutions, and economic development organizations) to discuss workforce participation, challenges, and opportunities, and to develop a report. A key recommendation of the MLA report and a strategic priority of the government is the development of an Aboriginal Workforce Strategy, intended to address the workforce and skills training needs of Aboriginal people in Alberta. Invitations have been sent to Aboriginal leaders in the province, requesting representatives to help begin developing the Aboriginal Workforce Strategy.

Work commenced on two other strategic priorities, including exploring opportunities to streamline grants that support Aboriginal economic development, and working to better support Aboriginal urban transitions.

In relation to economic development, a Funders Table was initiated in 2011-12, comprised of various provincial and federal government departments, in order to collectively assess Aboriginal economic development grant applications or proposals and to identify potential funding partners.

In relation to Aboriginal urban transitions, in addition to co-hosting the Edmonton Aboriginal Gathering and Dialogue in February 2012, additional funding of \$100,000 was provided to the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary and the Aboriginal Council of Lethbridge to assist with their capacity to address issues around transition services and workforce participation.

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships Initiative

In addition, under the Aboriginal Economic Partnerships Initiative, the Government of Alberta committed \$4.95 million towards Aboriginal economic development. These projects aimed to enhance the capacity of Aboriginal people and communities to fully participate in Alberta's economy.

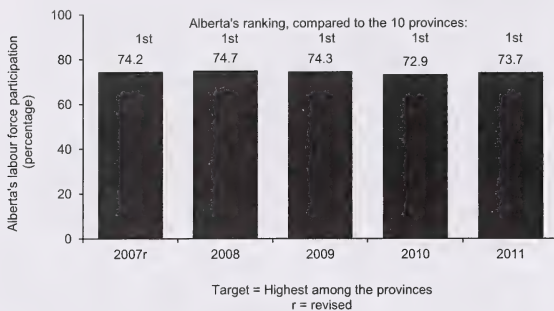
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Labour Force Participation Rate (see note 19)

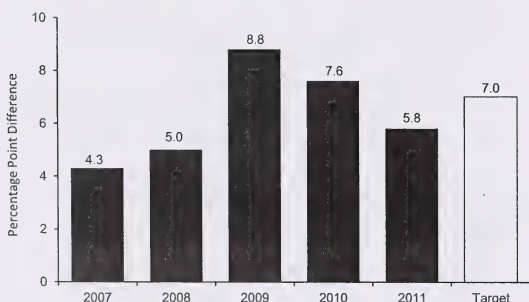
Inter-provincial rank of Alberta labour force participation rate.



- ♦ In 2011, the labour force participation rate for Alberta was 73.7 per cent, which ranked the highest in Canada and met the target for this performance measure. By comparison, the Canadian rate was 66.8 per cent, the rate next-highest to Alberta's was 69.3 per cent, and the lowest rate in the country was 60.0 per cent.
- ♦ Alberta's economy continues to be one of the strongest in Canada. As the economy continues to slowly recover, it is expected that the labour force participation rate will continue to increase across Canada, with the highest rate in Alberta.
- ♦ The labour force participation rate represents the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment. The inter-provincial rank of labour force participation is an indicator of Alberta's effectiveness in addressing labour force needs relative to that of other provinces. The Alberta government contributed to this result by working to address issues related to labour force development, labour shortages, skills deficits, immigration and labour force planning and productivity.

Aboriginal Employment (off reserve) (see note 20)

Percentage point difference between the unemployment rate of Aboriginal people living off reserve and other Albertans.



- ♦ In 2011, the unemployment rate for the non-Aboriginal population in Alberta was 5.3 per cent while the unemployment rate for the off-reserve Aboriginal population was 11.1 per cent. The difference of 5.8 percentage points met the target of 7.0 percentage points or less. This was possibly due to the global and provincial economic growth in 2011, which had a greater impact on lowering the unemployment rate of the off-reserve Aboriginal population than on lowering that of the non-Aboriginal population from the previous year.
- ♦ The 2011 result was an improvement over the 2010 and 2009 results, by 1.8 and 3.0 percentage points, respectively. This improvement reflects the recent global and provincial economic recovery. Government will continue to take actions to support Aboriginal people in improving their employment outcomes.

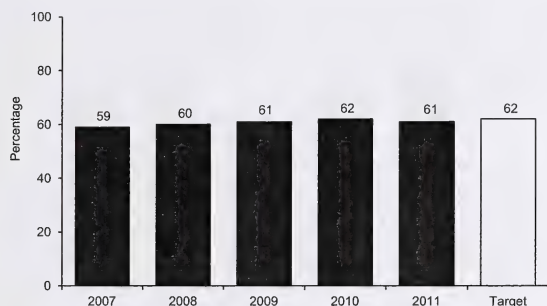
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Post-secondary Education Attainment Rate (see note 21)

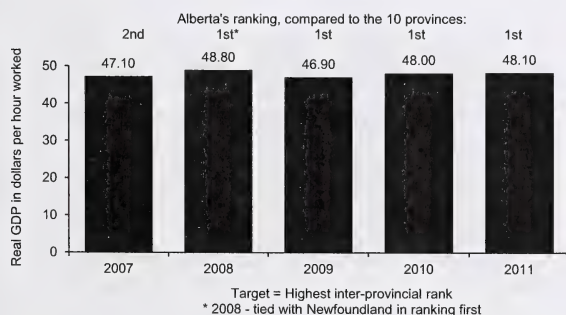
Percentage of Albertans age 25-64 that have completed post-secondary education.



- In 2011, 61 per cent of Albertans age 25-64 reported completing a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or university degree.
- The overall upward trend of this measure may be related to the increasing demand for workers with post-secondary credentials.
- This measure indicates Alberta's provision of a highly skilled workforce, and speaks to the province's economic and social wellbeing.

Labour Productivity (see note 22)

Inter-provincial rank of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in dollars per hour worked.



- The target for this measure demonstrates that Alberta ranks first among all provinces for the level of labour productivity. For 2011, this target was achieved, as Alberta's labour productivity of \$48.10 per hour was 6.7 per cent higher than that of the second highest province, Newfoundland.
- Alberta's high productivity level is mainly the result of its large oil and gas extraction sector. This sector accounts for almost one-quarter of the Alberta economy and has a productivity level of about \$270 per hour, compared with the Alberta average of \$48.10 per hour.
- Even though Alberta has the highest productivity level of all provinces, it also has the lowest growth rate in labour productivity. Alberta's low growth rate is in part due to the decline in its oil and gas sector as productivity has declined at an average annual rate of 3.1 per cent, mainly because of declining conventional oil and gas reserves, high oil prices, the transition to more labour and capital intensive oil sands.

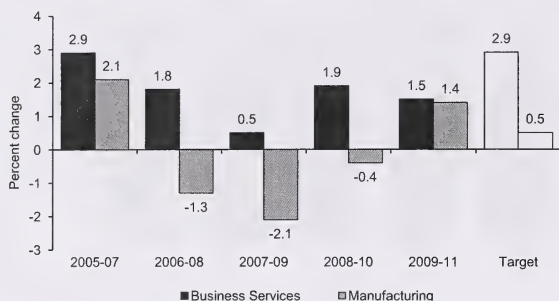
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Labour Productivity (see note 22)

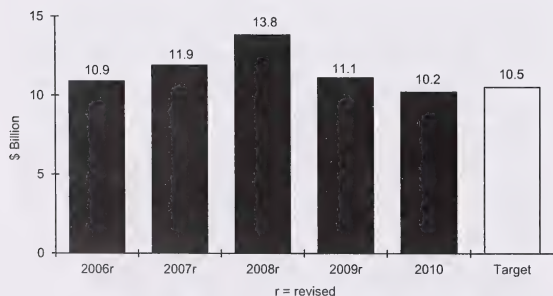
Per cent growth (3-year moving average) in GDP per hour worked: Business Services and Manufacturing



- ♦ The target for the business service labour productivity measure is for a three-year growth rate of 2.9 per cent in 2011. This target was not achieved as business service labour productivity grew by a three-year average of 1.5 per cent.
- ♦ Between 2008 and 2011, labour productivity declined in the following two business service sub-sectors: pipeline transportation; and administrative and support services.
- ♦ The target for the manufacturing labour productivity measure is for a three-year growth rate of 0.5 per cent in 2011. For 2011 this target was achieved as manufacturing labour productivity grew by a three-year average of 1.4 per cent.
- ♦ Between 2008 and 2011, labour productivity growth was particularly strong in the following two manufacturing sub-sectors: machinery; and chemicals.

Manufacturing and Service Industry Investment (see note 23)

The value of Alberta's capital investment by the manufacturing and services sector in current dollars (annual percentage change).



- ♦ There was significant growth in total investment between 2009 and 2010 (+23.8 per cent), but primarily in industries outside of manufacturing and services such as oil and gas extraction (+65.1 per cent) and housing (+29.4 per cent).
- ♦ Though results for 2009 and 2010 for this measure were poor, estimates of their growth in coming years is much more positive. Preliminary actual for 2011 indicate growth of 12.8 per cent and estimates for 2012 predict 12.2 per cent growth. These can change significantly from final actual, but the recent trend is investment is strongly positive.
- ♦ An explanation for the 2010 drop can be attributed to large decreases in investment in accommodation and food services (-40.3 per cent), professional, scientific, and technical services (-20.1 per cent), pipeline transportation (-15.3 per cent), and manufacturing (-6.4 per cent). Preliminary actuals for 2011 show that investment in these industries is expected to rebound strongly (except for manufacturing with a 0 per cent 2011 preliminary actual).

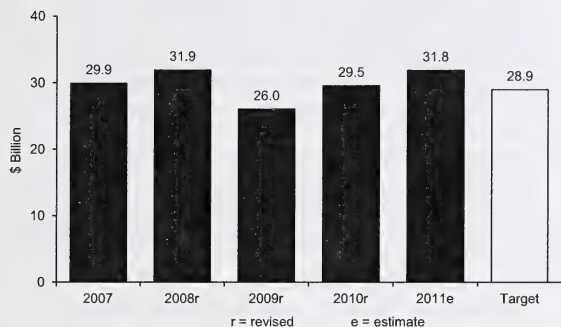
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Manufacturing and Service Exports (see note 24)

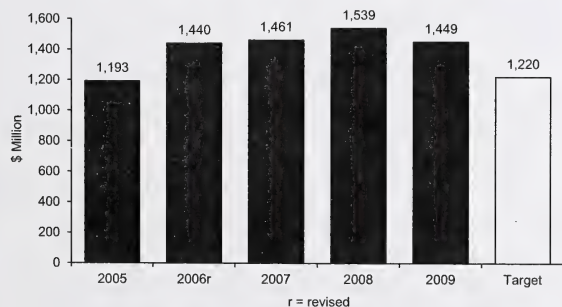
The value of Alberta's international exports of manufactured goods and services in current dollars (annual percentage change).



- For 2011, only up-to-date information for manufacturing (two-thirds of the total) was available. Manufacturing exports rose 9.2 per cent on a stronger United States economy which led to higher prices for chemicals and refinery products, and a greater demand for oil and gas field machinery.
- Service exports are expected to grow in 2011; however the data for service exports is not yet available. A growth rate of 5.0 per cent, identical to the Canadian growth rate was assumed.

Business Expenditures on Research and Development (see note 25)

Alberta business expenditures on research and development.



- In 2009, business expenditures on research and development were \$1,449 million, exceeding the target of \$1,220 million.
- While this measure is influenced by many external factors, the highest percentage of research and development activity is being performed in the oil and gas sector.
- This measure provides an indication of the business climate for industrial research, which has the potential to produce innovative ideas, products and processes that can yield significant economic and social benefits for the province.

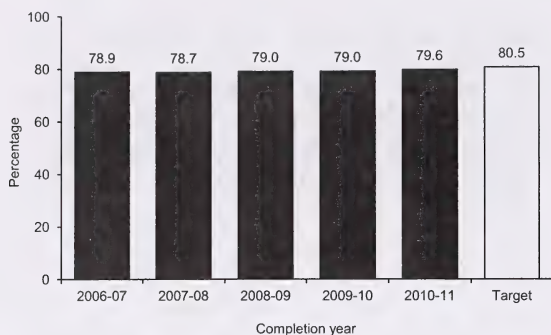
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Performance Measures

Results Analysis

High School Completion Rate (see note 26)

High school completion rate of students within five years of entering Grade 10.



- In 2010-11, 79.6 per cent of students completed high school within five years of entering Grade 10. The target was not met, although the high school completion rate has increased gradually over time. This indicates that parents, students and schools continue to recognize high school completion is important for students' future success.
- External factors such as the economy might have had an effect on the high school completion rate. The province experienced an economic downturn in 2008 and 2009 and as a result more students might have stayed in high school rather than leaving to join the labour force.
- The percentage of students employed part-time who report they work more than 20 hours per week declined from 20 per cent to 14 per cent.
- Research based on the Youth in Transition Survey suggests that working more than 20 hours per week may interfere with realizing one's educational potential. Thus, the decrease in the number of students working more than 20 hours per week may have contributed to an increase in students completing their studies.
- In Statistics Canada's 2011 Labour Force Survey, 91 per cent of Albertans age 25-34 reported they had completed high school.

Innovative and Sustainable Transportation System

Improved Provincial Highway System

The government continued to improve the provincial highway network, the backbone of our transportation system, to support a stronger economy and the population growth of our communities.

Over 90 per cent of the Edmonton ring road is now open to traffic. The Northwest segment of Edmonton's ring road opened in November 2011, and the five interchange projects along southwest Anthony Henday Drive were completed: Cameron Heights; Rabbit Hill Road; Callingwood Road; Lessard Road; and Stony Plain Road. Request for Proposals were issued in May 2011 to select a proponent for construction of the final northeast segment were of the Anthony Henday.

In Calgary, a public-private partnership was announced in April 2011 to begin construction on the southeast segment of Calgary's Stoney Trail which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2013. Construction on the Nose Hill Drive interchange was also started for completion in the fall of 2013.

In addition, government continued to preserve Alberta's existing highway network. Over 1,200 kilometres of highway were paved, including sections of Highway 41, Highway 1 and Highway 49. Sections of Highway 1A by the town of Cochrane and Highway 2A by the City of Lacombe were twinned, and progress continues to be made on twinning Highway 63 by Wandering River. Continued construction of the North Saskatchewan Bridge on Highway 22 east of Drayton Valley and the South Saskatchewan River Bridge on Highway 1 in Medicine Hat further support connectivity.

Improved Transportation for Albertans

In October 2011, Alberta became the first North American jurisdiction to deregulate and open the inter-city bus transportation market. The new framework created a more flexible and responsive bus system that will foster competition and better service for Albertans, while still ensuring the safety of

passengers and the public. It also opens opportunities for the expansion of regional transit services, further improving mobility in the province.

In 2011, over \$1.1 billion of grant funding was provided to municipalities throughout the province to support critical transportation and other municipal infrastructure. The Green Transit Incentive Program (GreenTRIP) supported the municipal development of public transit and the extension of light rail transit systems for Albertans. GreenTRIP is supporting the municipal development of public transit which is allowing Albertans to travel in ways – and to places – they could not before. This program is a perfect example of government's partnership with municipalities for the benefit of residents and Albertans in general.

Support for Northern and Oil Sands Development

In early 2012, the Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation Coordinating Committee was created to steward the development of transportation options in northeast Alberta.

Construction of a new five-lane bridge over the Athabasca River on Highway 63 was completed and opened to traffic in October 2011 to better meet transportation needs. Additional progress has been made in the construction of the Confederation Way and Thickwood Boulevard interchanges on Highway 63 to facilitate traffic flow.

Traffic Safety Initiatives (See also goal three Impaired Driving)

Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan – comprising legislation, community initiatives, public education and awareness, enforcement and road engineering – continues to contribute to making Alberta roads safer.

In 2011, the three-year rolling average combined fatal and major injury collision rate was 70.5 per 100,000 population, marking a six per cent decrease over the previous year's result. Also, over 95 per cent of Albertans regularly used their seatbelts to help keep them safe on our roads, which is an increase of three per cent from 2010.

Building Tomorrow – Provide the roads, schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing economy and population.

Tougher legislation for impaired driving was passed in December 2011 with Bill 26 (*Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, 2011). The new legislation aims to change behaviours to keep drivers who drink from getting behind the wheel. It introduces stronger sanctions for those drivers with blood alcohol content greater than .05, with the strongest sanctions reserved for repeat offenders, and those criminally impaired with blood alcohol content over .08. The new legislation is scheduled to be implemented in phases starting in summer 2012.

The *Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving) Amendment Act*, 2010 and the Distracted Driving Regulation came into force in September 2011 to help reduce avoidable collisions. This new legislation encourages drivers to focus on driving while operating a vehicle and eliminate distractions.

Investing in Public Infrastructure

Government continued to invest in schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure to support the needs of Alberta communities.

Learning Facilities

Several learning facility projects are nearing completion. As part of the Alberta Schools Alternative Learning Procurement (ASAP) Phase II, 10 new school facilities in communities around Edmonton and Calgary will open to students in September 2012. Four new high schools are also progressing toward completion and will open to students in September 2012. In total, the ASAP II facilities will provide an additional 12,000 student spaces. Investment has been maintained to address post-secondary institution infrastructure needs across the province. With recently completed and current projects underway, these facilities will provide additional capacity for over 8,000 students. Facilities such as the Taylor Family Digital Library at the University of Calgary and the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy at the University of Alberta opened to the public in September 2011.

Health Facilities

Government maintained its commitment to develop infrastructure to support healthcare delivery in Alberta, working across the healthcare system to meet the needs of Albertans. The province undertook 28 active projects in 15 communities across the province.

Three facilities were completed and turned over to Alberta Health Services: Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital; University of Alberta Stollery Children's Hospital Inter-operative Magnetic Resonance Imaging Suite; and the first two phases of Grande Prairie Queen Elizabeth II Emergency and Endoscopy Redevelopment.

Other Public Facilities

Investment was maintained to provide other innovative and efficient public facilities necessary to support service delivery to Albertans. The Edmonton Remand Centre and the Federal Building were advanced, and the Greenhouse Research and Production Complex near Brooks was completed. Additionally the province worked with its partners to aid in the recovery of the community of Slave Lake, and provided over 200 homes in three subdivisions to house residents displaced by the wildfires that struck the town in May 2011.

Greening Government

Government remains committed to conducting government business and facilities in an environmentally sustainable manner. An action plan was released to support the Greening Government Strategy to reduce the environmental impacts of government operations. Currently, where available, 100 per cent of government office facilities are operated using EcoLogo-certified electricity.

Connectivity

Alberta Supernet

The Alberta SuperNet continued to support over 3,800 government buildings, libraries, schools, hospitals and municipalities in 402 rural and 27 urban communities province wide. In addition, government consulted with and designed new services for stakeholders, and worked to construct and provide connectivity to 12 new schools in 2011-12.

Final Mile Rural Connectivity Initiative

The Final Mile Rural Connectivity Initiative is the Alberta government's strategy to ensure reliable, high-speed Internet is available to at least 98 per cent of Albertans. Today, about 43,600 rural Alberta households are currently without access to high-speed Internet service. The market is ever changing and the government continues to monitor these numbers. Government is also working to assist municipalities, First Nations and Metis Settlements with broadband plans already underway.

Spending on Programs and Services and Public Infrastructure

Long-term Fiscal Plan

Government engaged in a series of roundtables throughout the province to solicit views on the priorities for Alberta and fiscal options around balanced budgets and savings. These views were considered in the development of Budget 2012.

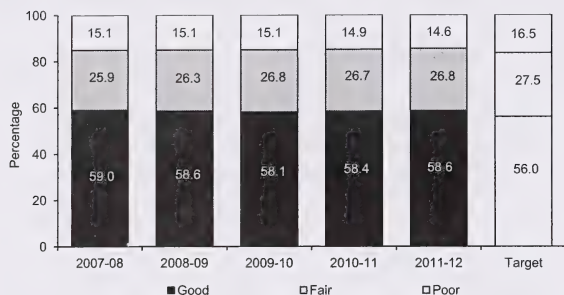
In spring 2012 the *Results Based Budgeting Act* was passed. The act will form the basis of a comprehensive review of government programs and services to ensure that they are effectively supporting Albertans. The recommendations from the review will support the development of a long-term fiscal plan.

Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Physical Condition of Provincial Highways (see note 27)

Physical condition of pavement as good, fair or poor.



- In 2011-12, 58.6 per cent of the paved highways were in good condition compared to the target of 56 per cent; 26.8 per cent of the paved highways were in fair condition compared to the target of 27.5 per cent; 14.6 per cent of the paved highways were in poor condition compared to the target of 16.5 per cent.
- Government recognizes the provincial highway system is critical to the economic prosperity and social growth of the province. Therefore, the government continued to invest in highway repaving and innovative solutions to maintain the percentage of highways in safe, good and fair condition under severe weather conditions and increased traffic flows.
- The provincial highway network consists of approximately 31,000 kilometres of roadways, of which about 27,600 kilometres are paved.

Physical Condition of Learning Facilities (see note 28)

– School Facilities – in good, fair or poor condition.

Year	Condition		
	Good	Fair	Poor
2011-12	61%	37%	2%

- In 2011-12, 61 per cent of school facilities were in good condition, 37 per cent in fair condition and two per cent in poor condition. These results were within the expected range; revisions to the evaluation methodology are expected to have a one to two year impact on results before stabilizing.
- The results for 2011-12 are not comparable against targets set under the previous methodology. Improvements made to the methodology have resulted in greater consistency in calculating the Facility Condition Index (FCI) across learning, government-owned and health facilities.
- While ensuring the safety of public facilities is paramount, maintenance schedules balance resources and competing priorities in meeting Albertans needs.

Building Tomorrow – Provide the roads, schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing economy and population.

Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Physical Condition of Learning Facilities (see note 29)

– Post-secondary Facilities – in good, fair or poor condition.

Year	Condition		
	Good	Fair	Poor
2011-12	72%	23%	5%

- In 2011-12, 72 per cent of post-secondary facilities were in good condition, 23 per cent in fair condition and five per cent in poor condition. These results were within the expected range; revisions to the evaluation methodology are expected to have a one to two year impact on results before stabilizing.
- The results for 2011-12 are not comparable against targets set under the previous methodology. Improvements made to the methodology have resulted in greater consistency in calculating the Facility Condition Index (FCI) across learning, government-owned and health facilities.
- Since 2009, there has been additional federal and provincial funding for maintenance. In 2011-12, \$79.3 million was provided to institutions from the Infrastructure Maintenance Program.

Physical Condition of Government-owned and Operated Facilities (see note 30)

Rating as good, fair or poor.

Year	Condition		
	Good	Fair	Poor
2011-12	73%	26%	1%

- In 2011-12, 73 per cent of government-owned and operated facilities were in good condition, 26 per cent in fair condition and one per cent in poor condition. These results were within the expected range; revisions to the evaluation methodology are expected to have a one to two year impact on results before stabilizing.
- The results for 2011-12 are not comparable against targets set under the previous methodology. Improvements made to the methodology have resulted in greater consistency in calculating the Facility Condition Index (FCI) across learning, government-owned and health facilities.
- A significant portion (40 per cent) of government-owned and operated space was built between 1975 and 1985 and is approaching a time when major upgrading or refurbishment will be required to maintain them.

Performance Measures

Results Analysis

Physical Condition of Health Facilities

Rating as good, fair or poor.

Year	Condition		
	Good	Fair	Poor
2011-12	77%	20%	3%

- ♦ In 2011-12, 77 per cent of health facilities were in good condition, 20 per cent in fair condition and three per cent in poor condition. These results were within the expected range; revisions to the evaluation methodology are expected to have a one to two year impact on results before stabilizing.
- ♦ The results for 2011-12 are not comparable against targets set under the previous methodology. Improvements made to the methodology have resulted in greater consistency in calculating the Facility Condition Index (FCI) across learning, government-owned and health facilities.
- ♦ A larger proportion of the health facilities inventory is now included in the building condition index.

SOURCES AND NOTES

1. River Water Quality Index

Source: Environment and Water

Note(s): River water quality is based on the Oldman River, Bow River, Red Deer River, North Saskatchewan River, Smoky/Peace Rivers and Athabasca River. Various natural and human factors, including flow volume, degree of development in the basin, point source effluent discharges, and non-point source runoff (e.g., from agricultural fields), can influence the River Water Quality Index. In July of 2010, significant rainfall events in the Red Deer River Basin likely contributed to increased non-point source runoff to the River. Contaminants (bacteria, nutrients, pesticides) transported by this runoff may have caused an increase in the number and magnitude of water quality guideline exceedances, resulting in a lower River Water Quality Index rating at the downstream monitoring station.

The index reported is based on the measurement of four groups of variables (metals, bacteria, nutrients and pesticides) present in the river water. The measurement is assigned a rating based on the following guidelines: 96-100 Almost always met; Best quality (Excellent); 81-95 Occasionally exceeded, but usually by small amounts; threat to quality is minimal (Good); 66-80 Sometimes exceeded by moderate amounts; quality occasionally departs from desirable levels (Fair); 46-65 Often exceeded, sometimes by large amounts; quality is threatened, often departing from desirable levels (Marginal); 0-45 Almost always exceeded by large amounts; quality is significantly impaired and is well below desirable levels; Worst quality (Poor). Both upstream and downstream monitoring stations must achieve a minimum rating of good for the river to receive an overall score of good to excellent.

2. Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills

Source: Environment and Water

Note(s): Waste from the residential sector; the industrial, commercial, and institutional sector; and the construction, renovation, and demolition sector collected at municipal landfills is included in this measure. The calculation is based on the kilograms of municipal solid waste sent to each landfill divided by the population. The population data are derived from the most up-to-date population statistics, either Municipal Affairs official population list or Statistics Canada 2011 census data. Municipal Affairs uses Statistics Canada census data unless a municipality has conducted a census and can provide more current data. In 2011, Statistics Canada data was updated. Approximately 83 per cent of Alberta's population is served by reporting landfills. Estimates are used for the remaining population.

3. Air Quality Index

Source: Environment and Water

Parkland Airshed Management Zone, Calgary Region Airshed Zone, Fort Air Partnership, Peace Airshed Zone Association, Palliser Airshed Society, and Lakeland Industry and Community Association.

Note(s): The 2011 Air Quality Index methodology has been enhanced and therefore results are no longer comparable to the target or historical data prior to 2010. The results reflect the new monitoring technology implemented at eleven air monitoring stations across Alberta which better accounts for the total fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentration. This initiative is part of the National Air Pollution Surveillance Program being implemented across Canada.

4. Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Source: Environment Canada

Note(s): Results are based on the success in meeting the greenhouse gas emissions growth targets measured in million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, as outlined in *Alberta's 2008 Climate Change Strategy*. Alberta's total emissions are reported in the National/Provincial/Territorial Tables.

5. Ease of Access to Services

Source: Physician Services – 2008: Health Quality Council of Alberta. Satisfaction with Health Care Services: A Survey of Albertans, conducted by the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta.

2010, 2012: Health Quality Council of Alberta. Satisfaction and Experience with Health Care Services: A Survey of Albertans, conducted by the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta.

2009, 2011: Health Quality Council of Alberta. Provincial Survey about Health and the Health System in Alberta, conducted by the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta.

Source: Emergency Department Services – 2006, 2008: Health Quality Council of Alberta. Satisfaction with Health Care Services: A Survey of Albertans, conducted by the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta.

2010, 2012: Health Quality Council of Alberta. Satisfaction and Experience with Health Care Services: A Survey of Albertans conducted by the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta 2011: Health Quality Council of Alberta.

2011 Provincial Survey about Health and the Health System in Alberta conducted by the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta.

Note(s): Results reflect the percentages of Albertans rating ease of access to physician services, and ease of access to emergency department services, as easy or very easy. The rating of ease of access to physician services is based on a telephone survey of 2,658 randomly selected households in Alberta. The overall

response rate to the survey was 32.8 per cent. A total of 2,234 people who had personally received health services from a physician in Alberta within the past year were asked to rate ease of access to these services. Results are reliable within +/-2.3 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

To assess ease of access to emergency department services, HQCA conducted a telephone survey of 2,658 randomly selected households in Alberta. The overall response rate to the survey was 32.8 per cent. There were 1,205 survey respondents who had accessed emergency department services in Alberta in the past year to receive care for an illness or injury. They were asked to rate ease of access to emergency department services needed most recently. Results are reliable within +/-3.8%, 19 times out of 20.

6. Public Rating of Health System Overall

Source: Source is the same as note 5 Ease of Access to Services: Physician Services

Note(s): Results reflect Albertans' rating of the health care system and the quality of medical services it provides. The result is based on a telephone survey of 2,658 randomly selected households in Alberta. The overall response rate to the survey was 32.8 per cent. A total of 2,644 survey respondents answered the question on rating the health care system and the quality of medical care it provides. Results are reliable within +/-2.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

7. Satisfaction with Health Care Services Received

Source: Source is the same as note 5 Ease of Access to Services: Physician Services

Note(s): Results reflect Albertans' overall rating of their satisfaction with health care services personally received in Alberta. The result is based on a telephone survey of 2,658 randomly selected households in Alberta within the past year. The overall response rate to the survey was 32.8 per cent. A total of 2,484 survey respondents answered the question on satisfaction with health care services personally received in Alberta within the past year. Results are reliable within +/-2.6 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

8. Continuing Care

Source: Persons waiting in an acute care hospital bed; Persons waiting in the community: Alberta Health Services, Stratahealth Pathways (Calgary and Edmonton Zones); Meditech (North, Central and South Zones).

Note(s): The number of persons waiting in an acute care hospital bed/waiting in the community for continuing care is defined as the number of individuals assessed and approved for publicly funded continuing care living options who are waiting in acute care and sub-acute care hospital beds/waiting in the community at a specific point in time (March 31st).

Source: Quality of accommodation services provided in supportive living and long-term care facilities: Accommodation Standards Tracking and Licensing (ASTRAL) System

Note(s): This measure represents the percentage of supportive living and long-term care facilities that were fully compliant with the supportive living and long-term care accommodation standards as of March 31, 2012. Supportive living facilities include Group Homes, Assisted Living and Lodges.

9. Public Perception of Safety in the Neighbourhood

Source: Justice 2011-12 Public Opinion Survey and Solicitor General and Public Security 2011-12 Public Opinion Survey

Note(s): To survey a random and representative sample of adult Albertans, quotas were established based on 2006 census data from Statistics Canada. Resinnova Research Inc is the third party consultant that has conducted the surveys. A public opinion telephone survey has been conducted on an annual basis on behalf of Justice and Solicitor General and Public Security since 1996. Historically, a joint survey was conducted by the ministries, but beginning in 2008-09, the two ministries conducted public opinion surveys independent of one another.

The same survey question used to measure public perception of safety in the neighbourhood was asked in both ministries' surveys. Justice used a sample size of 750 (as has been used in the

past), while Solicitor General and Public Security used a sample size of 1,200. The two samples were mutually exclusive, i.e., no respondents completed the survey more than once. The sample size for this question, therefore, was 1,950 when the results of both surveys were combined. Of 1,950 respondents, 1,591 (82 per cent) felt very safe or reasonably safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. The response rate was 40 per cent and the results are considered reliable within +/-2.2 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

10. Participation in the Arts

Source: Culture and Community Services, Survey of Albertans on Culture

Note(s): Albertans were asked if they had personally attended or participated in a broad range of arts activities or events in the last year, such as attending live performances, festivals, home based arts activities, writing/publishing a literary work, school and community based arts programs and the purchasing of art products.

11. Affordable Housing Units

Source: Municipal Affairs

Note(s): This measure is comprised of the total affordable housing units approved for development from a variety of housing programs.

The 2011-12 calculation of units is based on total affordable housing units approved for development with capital funding support from the Housing Capital Initiatives Request for Proposals (RFP) Funding.

The 2010-11 calculation of units is based on total affordable housing units approved for development with capital funding support from the Housing Capital Initiatives RFP funding.

The results do not include rent supplement units supported with block funding.

Through the development of partnerships, the reporting of housing units includes funding up to 70 per cent of the costs relating to the construction of new rental units, purchase/renovation of existing rental accommodation units, development of secondary suites in private dwellings as affordable housing, conversion of non-residential space to residential units, and other identified priorities.

This presentation is based on the most recent information available. The results are updated when new information becomes available. This presentation is based on approved or updated housing plans as at March 31, 2012.

	Percentage breakdown of funding allocated by number of units		Total
	15-50%	51-70%	
2011-12			
Housing Capital Initiatives	280	932	1,212
2010-11			
Housing Capital Initiatives	420r	1,585r	2,005r

r - revised

12. Albertans' Satisfaction with their Local Governments

Source: Municipal Affairs, Albertans' Satisfaction with their Municipal Government Survey

Note(s): The measure reports the percentage of adult Albertans who are somewhat satisfied to very satisfied with their municipal government. The results are based on a telephone survey of a representative sample of 1,000 adults from 16 urban centers and two rural regions. The results are considered reliable within +/- 3.6 per cent 19 times out of 20.

13. Support for Albertans with Developmental Disabilities

Source: Seniors, Persons with Developmental Disabilities Family and Guardian Satisfaction Survey

Note(s): The biennial survey results are based on whether respondents strongly agree, agree or somewhat agree that they were satisfied with PDD-funded services. Prior to 2008-09, the survey used a four-point scale, with overall agreement reflecting respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that they were satisfied.

A written questionnaire was sent by mail to legal guardians of adults receiving PDD-funded services in Alberta. Respondents had the option to instead fill out the survey online. Security measures were implemented to control access to the online survey, data entry, and data retrieval to ensure the accuracy and integrity of data.

In the last survey, a total of 6,008 survey forms were distributed and 1,913 valid responses were received (12.8 per cent completed online). There

was a 36.4 per cent response rate to the survey and the results are considered reliable within +/- .3 per cent 19 times out of 20.

14. Social and Emotional Development

Source: Statistics Canada and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada – National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth

Note(s): The last results are based on the now discontinued biennial survey designed to track child development and well-being from birth to early adulthood. The survey includes information about how a child's family, friends, activities, school and community affect their learning, behaviour and health.

The Emotional Development result is reliable to within +/-1.1 per cent nationally and to 3.2 per cent in Alberta, 19 times out of 20.

The Social Development result is reliable to within +/- 1.1 per cent nationally and to 2.9 per cent in Alberta, 19 times out of 20.

15. Violent Crime Rate

Source: Canadian Crime Statistics, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Note(s): Historical results have been revised to reflect the latest information reported under the new UCR2 format from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, various forms of sexual assault, robbery and abduction. This does not include traffic incidents that result in death or bodily harm.

16. Property Crime Rate

Source: Canadian Crime Statistics, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Note(s): Historical results have been revised to reflect the latest information reported under the new UCR2 format from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Property crime includes theft, break-and-enter, fraud and possession of stolen goods. This does not include the use of threat of violence against an individual.

17. Volunteerism

Source: Culture and Community Services, Survey of Albertans on Culture

Note(s): Albertans were asked if they had volunteered in areas such as arts, culture, sports, recreation, libraries, human services, youth development, informal volunteering or any other type of volunteer work.

18. Support for Albertans with Low Income who Need Temporary Help

Source: Human Services

Note(s): The results of this measure are obtained through the Work Outcomes Reporting Project (WORP) survey. An independent consultant was retained through WORP to contact former Income Support Program participants three months after they left the program. Participants are asked to respond to the question, "Have you been employed at any time since you stopped receiving social assistance (welfare)?"

19. Labour Force Participation Rate

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey and Human Services

Note(s): The labour force participation rate represents the percentage of the working-age population (15 years or older) that is either employed or unemployed, compared to other provinces. Persons who are working are classified as employed, while those who are not working but who are available for work are classified as unemployed. The remainder of the population is referred to as not in the labour force. The rate is calculated as a 12-month average of the monthly results, which are distributed by Statistics Canada through the Labour Force Survey statistics.

20. Aboriginal Employment (off reserve)

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, Human Services and Aboriginal Relations

Note(s): This measure reports on the difference between the unemployment rate of the off-reserve Aboriginal population and that of non-Aboriginal population in Alberta on a calendar year basis. The unemployment rates for both off-reserve Aboriginal population and non-Aboriginal population are based on the Labour Force Survey

conducted by Statistics Canada. Data tables are provided by Statistics Canada and tabulated by staff from the Ministry of Human Services to produce the result for this measure.

21. Post-secondary Education Attainment Rate

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Note(s): Post-secondary completion includes certificates and diplomas (university, vocational, trade, community college) and university degrees. Excluded from the survey's coverage are persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces, full-time members of the Canadian Forces, and the institutionalized population.

22. Labour Productivity

Source: Statistics Canada and Treasury Board and Enterprise

Note(s): Treasury Board and Enterprise calculates the provincial labour productivity by using real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at basic prices per hour worked for all jobs. GDP at basic prices is derived from GDP at market prices, but excludes indirect taxes and subsidies on products. 2006-09 results have been revised to reflect the latest information from Statistics Canada. GDP figures used in the measure are GDP at basic prices, by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and province, chained (2002) dollars as per Statistics Canada methodology.

23. Manufacturing and Service Industry Investment

Source: Statistics Canada and Treasury Board and Enterprise

Note(s): Statistics Canada surveys all industries once a year about their actual past years' capital investments, as well as their intended investments for the current year. For business services, the following industries are aggregated: transportation and warehousing; information and cultural industries; finance and insurance; professional, scientific and technical services; administrative and support, waste management; arts, entertainment and recreation; and accommodation and food services.

24. Manufacturing and Service Exports

Source: Statistics Canada and Treasury Board and Enterprise

Note(s): The total value of Alberta's international goods exports is equivalent to Statistics Canada's published numbers. For manufactured goods, export data by commodity from Statistics Canada are used to determine industry-specific export values, using Statistics Canada classifications.

25. Business Expenditures on Research and Development

Source: Statistics Canada

Note(s): This is a measure of expenditures devoted annually to research and development from all business sectors of Alberta's economy. The data is gathered annually by Statistics Canada using surveys of business and is initially published as Industrial Research and Development: Intentions. The funding view of the data presents who provided the money regardless of which performing entity spent it.

26. High School Completion Rate

Source: Education

Note(s): The high school completion rate reports the percentages of Alberta students in public, separate, francophone, charter, and accredited private schools who, within five years of entering Grade 10:

- ♦ received an Alberta High School Diploma, an Alberta High School Equivalency Diploma (GED), a Certificate of Achievement for completing the Integrated Occupational Program (IOP) or the Certificate of High School Achievement for completing Knowledge and Employability courses
- ♦ entered an Alberta post-secondary program or an apprenticeship program
- ♦ earned credits in five Grade 12 courses, including one language arts diploma examination course and three other diploma examination courses.

The tracking of Grade 10 Alberta students excludes some students, such as those identified as having a severe cognitive disability or severe multiple disabilities.

27. Physical Condition of Provincial Highways

Source: Transportation

Note(s): This measure reports the percentage of paved provincial highways in good, fair, or poor condition. The condition of the highway is measured by consultants using laser-based equipment which captures the roughness of roads. Condition is rated based on an International Roughness Index.

The identification of roads as good, fair or poor relies on standards established as a result of a comprehensive research study of road conditions and other performance measures conducted by the University of Calgary in 2002.

The provincial highway network consists of approximately 31,000 kilometers of roadways, of which 27,000 are paved. The length of roads being analyzed in 2011 was 27,638 kilometers. If not measured the International Roughness Index is worsened by five per cent to account for the estimated deterioration of the road.

28. Physical Condition of Learning Facilities

Source: Infrastructure

Note(s): Results are based on overall condition of facilities. Good is defined as adequate for intended use and expected to provide continued service life with average maintenance. Fair means aging components are nearing the end of their life cycle and require additional expenditure for renewal or refurbishing. Poor means upgrading is required to comply with current codes or standards and deterioration has reached the point where major repairs or replacement are necessary. Current codes and standards are defined by the Alberta Building Code which is revised periodically or other mandatory requirements. Older buildings are grandfathered and required to comply with the standards applicable at the time they were constructed and not the current standards. Due to improvements made to the methodology that resulted in greater consistency in calculating the FCI across learning, government-owned and health facilities, current results are not comparable to previous years' results.

29. **Physical Condition of Government-owned and Operated Facilities**

Source: Infrastructure

Note(s): Refer to note 28 for a definition of good, fair or poor physical condition as well as a definition of current minimum codes and standards. Due to improvements made to the methodology that resulted in greater consistency in calculating the FCI across learning, government-owned and health facilities, current results are not comparable to previous years' results.

30. **Physical Condition of Health Facilities**

Source: Infrastructure, Alberta Health Services Board

Note(s): Refer to note 28 for a definition of good, fair or poor physical condition as well as a definition for minimum codes and standards. Due to improvements made to the methodology that resulted in greater consistency in calculating the FCI across learning, government-owned and health facilities, current results are not comparable to previous years' results.

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